

Sharon breaks his silence with attack on Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Veteran Israeli right-wing hardliner Ariel Sharon broke a three-week silence late Friday to issue a sharp rebuke to new Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has not yet appointed Mr. Sharon to his cabinet.

"I hope the promises given to the people by Mr. Netanyahu will be better kept than those I received," Mr. Sharon told Israeli television.

Asked about Likud leader Netanyahu's ability to run the country, Mr. Sharon said: "I think he has the necessary abilities. He will have the chance to prove it."

Mr. Netanyahu offered a newly created infrastructure ministry to Mr. Sharon late Tuesday in a bid to defuse a row threatening to plunge his new coalition government into crisis.

The offer was made after David Levy backed down on an agreement to become Mr. Netanyahu's foreign minister in protest at Mr. Sharon being denied a ministry.

Mr. Levy agreed to join the cabinet after saying he was happy with the compromise deal suggested by Mr. Netanyahu, but Mr. Sharon has yet to accept the post.

The former general heads the headline wing of the Likud Party and played a key role in uniting the party behind Mr. Netanyahu for the election campaign, and in return expected a key ministerial portfolio.

But he rejected his reputation as an extremist during the television interview on Friday: "I am not an extremist and I am even less of a rebel."

In the run-up to last month's elections Mr. Sharon came out publicly against Israel respecting its commitment to hand most of the West Bank city of Hebron over to the Palestinians.

But he said Friday it would be possible to find a compromise deal allowing Israel to "respect its international commitments as it should while at the same time ensuring the security of Jewish settlers in the town. Mr. Sharon said he would be happy to serve in Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet, as long as the job is right."

"I am willing to serve in the government, but in a role in which my operational skills can be used, in which I can influence," Mr. Sharon said.

but I am not looking for a job for job's sake," Mr. Sharon added.

A senior member of the new prime minister's Likud Party, Mr. Sharon said he would otherwise serve out Mr. Netanyahu's government as a regular member of the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Mr. Sharon said that Mr. Netanyahu had earlier promised him one of the top portfolios: defence, foreign affairs, or finance, but gave them away after he was elected.

Mr. Sharon, who had remained throughout the cabinet crisis at his farm in southern Israel, gave his first interviews Friday to both Israel Television and Channel Two. He said the new portfolio was an important job that he would accept, if the authorities in the ministry are complete.

However, the ministry is a compilation of authorities — railroads, road construction in the West Bank, authority over water, and the lands authority — currently falling under the existing ministries, which Mr. Netanyahu would have to pry from other unwilling ministers in order to give to Mr. Sharon.

"The problem is not at all mine," Mr. Sharon told Channel Two. "It is the problem of the prime minister who offered me the job."

Mr. Sharon, who as minister of housing in the last Likud government, invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in building up Jewish settlements in the West Bank, also said Friday he believed that Israel could honour its agreement with the Palestinians to redeploy troops in the West Bank city of Hebron.

"In general one must honour agreements," Mr. Sharon said "despite the difficulty, there is a solution to the problem which will allow the continuation of Jewish life in Hebron with security."

Capitol Hill hosts Afghan hearings

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Representatives of Afghanistan's major factions will attend three days of hearings in Congress next week that are to focus on efforts to bring peace to the war-torn country.

Organised by Republican Senator Hank Brown, the hearings beginning Tuesday will be attended by senior leaders of the Taliban militia, which swept across southern Afghanistan in late 1994 and 1995 to reach Kabul's doorstep.

A deputy foreign minister of the Kabul government, a spokesman for exiled King Mohammad Zahir Shah and envoys from other factions are also scheduled to attend, a spokesman for Mr. Brown said.

"My hope is these meet-

ings will help our understanding of the situation in Afghanistan, as well as shed some light on the appropriate role for the U.S.," Mr. Brown said in a statement.

Mr. Brown travelled to Afghanistan in April, becoming the first elected official to visit the country in 16 years.

The Colorado senator has been lobbying for a larger peacemaking role for the United States in the conflict and the opening of a consulate in the eastern town of Jalalabad.

At the hearings, about 50 witnesses are scheduled to speak including ambassadors of countries in the region and representatives of Afghan American associations.

Afghanistan has been torn

by a civil war among rival clans since the April 1992 collapse of the communist regime in Kabul. But there has been fighting in the country since the late 1970s.

The State Department has said it appreciates Mr. Brown's initiative and has helped deliver invitations to exiled leaders in Pakistan and in far-flung corners of Afghanistan.

But one official, speaking on condition he not be named, noted that the three-day affair was limited in scope and would not achieve much beyond "educating" Congress.

"This is not a peace conference. The factions will not be talking to each other. They will be talking to Congress," he said.

'France had contacts with GIA'

PARIS (AFP) — More evidence emerged Saturday that France may have secretly tried to negotiate with a radical Algerian group which kidnapped and later murdered seven French monks.

The French daily Liberation published a copy of a message addressed on April 30 by the French embassy in Algiers to Djamel Zitouni, the leader of the Islamic Armed Group (GIA).

The text was handed over to an envoy whom Mr. Zitouni had sent to the embassy, and called on the GIA leader to "stay in touch."

The message said the French authorities "have

received Abdullah your messenger who gave us your letter together with a cassette."

The cassette reportedly contained recordings of the voices of the seven trappist monks kidnapped on March 27 by GIA militants from their monastery near Medea.

Liberation said the message to Mr. Zitouni contained two telephone numbers, one in France and the other an extension at the French embassy in Algiers and expressed the desire to "stay in touch with you."

The paper said the "the document bears both the stamp of the French embassy in Algeria and that of the GIA."

France has always maintained that it was not involved in any negotiations with the group which kidnapped the monks, whose decapitated remains were found at the end of May.

However, on May 24, the French government did admit having received "documents" from the GIA on April 30.

On Friday evening, a French foreign ministry spokesman said "France always stuck to its demand for an unconditional release of the monks" and he said the "only contact with anyone claiming to be an emissary of the GIA was on April 30."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt mum on missile investigations

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, hosting an Arab summit, refused on Saturday to comment on American charges it may have bought Scud missiles materials from North Korea. "This is a briefing to discuss the agenda of the Arab summit, and I will not talk about this," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told a news conference after talks began between the representatives of 21 Arab countries. The United States said on Friday it was looking into reports that Seoul supplied Egypt with the missiles. But other U.S. officials said the intelligence community is divided over what exactly may have taken place.

Iranian exiles stage rally

LONDON (AFP) — Several thousand people attended a rally here Friday to hear a leader of Iran's main exiled opposition group call for a "united anti-fundamentalist front" against the Tehran regime. The speech by Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the Paris-based National Council of Resistance, focused on the "misogynous character of the (Tehran) mullahs and their inhuman pressures on Iranian women." Ms. Rajavi called on Iranian women to "take the initiative in forming a united front against fundamentalism." The celebrated Iranian singer, Marziyeh, performed at the rally, which the organisers said was attended by 25,000 people.

Saudis donate \$10 m to Palestinians

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has donated \$10 million for development projects for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the official Saudi Press Agency said. It said the donation agreement was signed in Vienna on Friday with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees. Saudi Arabia in 1995 put up \$7.5 million to help pay the salaries of the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho. The year before it supplied \$20 million to UNRWA's programme to help finance the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank and Gaza. The donations are part of Saudi pledges to give Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza \$100 million to help them set up their self-rule authority.

12,000 bottles of alcohol seized in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police in north-west Iran seized 12,000 bottles of alcoholic drinks smuggled into the country hidden in five trailer trucks, newspapers reported Saturday. The papers did not mention the country of origin, but the drinks had apparently been brought into Iran from neighbouring Turkey. They were discovered during a search of cargo entering the country. The consumption and manufacture of alcohol is banned in Iran, an Islamic state since the 1979 revolution.

Cyprus protests airspace violation

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkish warplanes huzzed Cyprus in repeated low runs Friday, heightening tension that has gripped the war-divided island since Turkey began a major military exercise off its coast. The Greek Cypriot government said it was protesting to the United Nations, the repeated violations of Cypriot airspace by Turkish fighter jets. An official announcement said two F-16 warplanes flew over the Greek Cypriot sector of Nicosia, the island's divided capital Friday. They made at least three low passes in the morning. The overflights, the third this week, also drew a formal complaint to Ankara from the command of the U.N. Force in Cyprus.

Judge dismisses case against film

CAIRO (AP) — A judge Saturday dismissed a case by Muslim fundamentalist lawyers who were demanding \$300,000 and the banning of a film which they alleged ridiculed Islam. Judge Anwar Samuel of the north Cairo claims court threw out the case at the first session. He cited a law passed by parliament last month which blocks people from filing court cases who are not personally affected by the situation involved. "These lawyers have no personal stake in this case," Mr. Samuel said. "The law has given freedom to thought and art." The new law is aimed at stopping Muslim lawyers who have been attacking films and books on the theory that any Muslim can file suit if he feels Islam is being insulted. Secular intellectuals accused the Muslim activists of trying to muzzle free thought. Youssef Al Badry, a former member of parliament, and four other lawyers demanded the film "The Birds of Darkness" be banned and wanted \$300,000 as compensation.

Greece's ruling socialists to decide on who runs party

ATHENS (R) — Greece's fractious ruling socialists meet next week to decide who is in charge now that iron-fisted party founder Andreas Papandreu is confined to his home after a long illness.

The fight for control of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) has Mr. Papandreu's lieutenants at each others' throats and raised concerns about whether the party can hold together.

Mr. Papandreu, 77, was a master at playing off rival factions and keeping challengers to his rule at bay, but in his absence deep animosities have boiled over.

"These internal clashes resemble rear-guard battles," said Environment and Public Works Minister Costas Laliotis recently.

"Any victories will be pyrrhic victories. The 'victors' and 'vanquished' will simply reflect a weakened,

dulled, exhausted PASOK, counting its days until it loses the war (elections)."

Mr. Laliotis, a young and rising PASOK star, has been trying to mediate between the protagonists before the fourth congress in PASOK's 22-year history, set for June 27 to 30.

But as the day approaches for more than 4,000 delegates to meet at Athens Olympic Stadium, the infighting has intensified and battle lines have become more pronounced.

Pro-European reformers, who want PASOK to set a new course, are pitted against those who are loyal to Mr. Papandreu's populism — which often led to anti-American, anti-NATO and anti-European stands.

Ironically, Costas Simitis, a bland technocrat who opposed Mr. Papandreu's policies and leadership for years, won the first round in the fight for PASOK by

succeeding Mr. Papandreu as premier in January.

With Mr. Papandreu confined to hospital with pneumonia, PASOK's parliamentary group voted narrowly for Mr. Simitis to take over as prime minister until scheduled elections due late next year.

But Mr. Papandreu refused to relinquish his position as PASOK president, meaning the party machine remains in his hands and if PASOK wins the election, he would receive the mandate to form a government.

That is a disquieting thought for Mr. Simitis, especially since Mr. Papandreu has begun appearing in carefully staged television scenes — so far only seen and not heard.

The question gripping PASOK is whether Mr. Papandreu, confined to hospital or home since November, will appear at

the congress — perhaps on video — and in a characteristic surprise throw his support to one faction.

"If Papandreu is capable of such a move, he could name his own deputy PASOK leader. The congress would never deny him this. But no one knows whether he is physically or mentally capable of such a move," said one European Union diplomat.

Mr. Simitis, 59, has turned the congress into an all-or-nothing gamble by saying he wants a clear answer to who runs PASOK and dropping veiled threats to force early elections by resigning if he fails to win both the government and party machine.

The prize he wants is the new post of deputy PASOK leader, which will oversee day-to-day organisation and prepare the next general election. This would give Mr. Simitis a lock on PASOK power.

The central committee created the new post to ensure a calm transition to the post-Papandreu era, but it has become a poisoned chalice — which threatens to destroy the party.

"The feeling is that Mr. Simitis is making the running right now and will come out of the congress stronger, although perhaps not as strong as he would like. Mr. Papandreu is the wild card but he is also a spent force," said another EU diplomat.

Mr. Simitis's main rival is Mr. Papandreu's close confidant, Akis Tsohatzopoulos, who is determined to get his share of power and has suggested a collective PASOK leadership. He has declared he will stand for deputy party leader at the congress.

Mr. Papandreu's shadow for years, Mr. Tsohatzopoulos has come out into the open recently to attack Mr. Simitis and

some of his closest political supporters in PASOK.

"I disagree with the efforts of Mr. Simitis to gather all power into his own hands," he said in a recent interview. "There are many in PASOK today who don't want to hear about Mr. Simitis."

Mr. Tsohatzopoulos, 57, came surprisingly close to Mr. Simitis in the 87-75 vote in January to replace Mr. Papandreu as premier.

He stressed that Mr. Simitis had proved to be a good "factional leader," promoting his own people, but failed as a unifying PASOK party leader.

That kind of talk, along with the branding of Mr. Simitis's foreign minister, Theodore Pangalos, as "dangerous," has set the stage for some PASOK bloodletting at the congress.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
15:05.....Cartoon — The Mask
15:30.....Mac and Muley
16:00.....The Nature of Thing
17:00.....Flash News
17:02.....Only
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi
17:30.....Que Le Meilleur
18:00.....Envoye Special
19:00.....Le Journal
19:15.....Sports et Musique
19:30.....News Headlines
19:35.....Cinema, Cinema
20:00.....American Chart Show
20:45.....French Prince of Bel-Air
21:10.....Black's Magic
22:00.....News in English
22:25.....Counterstrike
23:15.....Short Story Cinema
23:50.....Nelson's Column

PRAYER TIMES

03:51.....Fajr
05:26.....(Sunrise) Duha
12:37.....Dhuhr
16:18.....'Asr
19:47.....Maghrib
21:24.....Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622666
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

Deserts.....16/35
Jordan Valley.....23/38
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 35 Humidity
readings: Amman 29 per cent,
Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al Masri.....675485
Dr. Khalil Abdo.....732920
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab.....758848
Dr. Youssef Rashed.....896301
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....643945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh.....250080
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Nabil Al Safarini.....901322
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Hospital Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

University Hospital.....845845
Al-Muasher Hospital.....667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital.....602240/50
Amal Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital.....(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital.....(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital.....(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital.....(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital.....(03)314111

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IN BRIEF

missile investigation
on Arab summit
materials from North
about this. Foreign
of 21 Arab countries
it was looking into
intelligence community
taken place.
rally
thousand people
a "United Arab Nations
regime. The speech
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by 25,000 people.

REGENT HEADS CABINET SESSION:
His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Saturday presides over part of the Cabinet session at the Prime Ministry. The Regent was received by acting Prime Minister, Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour (Petra photo)



Auditors tackle public spending issues Minister tours road works in Irbid governorate

AMMAN (Petra) — Financial and audit control on public works in the Arab region was the theme of a two-day meeting which opened Saturday in Amman by the Arab Financial and Audit Control Group in cooperation with the Audit Bureau and the Austrian Audit Bureau.

Addressing the meeting, Audit Bureau chief Abed Kharabsheh said control on public works projects was highly important because it entails controlling public spending on Ministry of Public Works projects including the construction

of roads, canals, railways and public buildings. He said delegates will discuss legislation and regulations governing the implementation of public works schemes, the execution of these projects and financial control on them.

An Austrian delegate outlined his country's experience in controlling spending on public works, and obstacles impeding financial monitoring and compared case studies in Austria with similar ones in the Arab World.

Hani Mismar from the Audit Bureau presented a working paper reviewing various issues connected with the implementation of public works projects in Jordan, government tenders and violations committed in this respect.

Delegates from various Arab governments audit and control institutions are taking part in the meeting. Meanwhile, Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali Saturday made inspection tours of road works in the Taybeh and Kufi Assad districts in Irbid Governorate and announced that the ministry plans to reorganise the

work of its various departments and offices in the governorates with a view to promoting their services. He said the government is concerned with asphalted roads and constructing bridges and culverts in the rural areas of the country so that farmers will be better able to transport their products to the main markets of the cities.

Mr. Majali met Irbid Governor Qafan Majali in Irbid and reviewed the condition of agricultural roads in the northern regions.

LOOKING AT THE REVOLT: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Saturday presides over a seminar entitled: "The 80th Anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt," held at the Royal Cultural Centre and organised by the Ministry of Culture and Al Urdun Al Jadid Centre (Petra photo)



Jordanian relief aid arrives in Yemen

SANAA (Petra) — Yemeni Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Abdul Karim Juneid Saturday said that the floods which hit Yemen last week caused extensive damage estimated at \$1.2 billion and resulted in the displacement of hundreds of families whose homes were washed away or destroyed by the heavy rainstorms.

Speaking upon receiving a plane-load of relief supplies from Jordan including tents, blankets, food and medicines, Dr. Juneid said the Jordanian military plane was the first to haul relief aid to his country, a clear gesture, he said, of the brotherly ties between the Jordanian and Yemeni peoples.

The relief supplies, estimated at 18.5 tonnes were collected by the Hasbemiye Charity Organisation (HCO) from the Ministry of Health and several private organisations and companies in Jordan, according to HCO Secretary General Abdul Salam Abbadi.

Dr. Juneid voiced Yemen's deep appreciation of Jordan's assistance and said that the Yemeni government has declared the stricken parts of the country as disaster areas and has appealed for help from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and international agencies.

Fayez Rabie, Jordan's ambassador to Yemen, was at the airport in Sanaa to witness the arrival of the shipment and to deliver it to the Yemeni authorities.

2 local firms win JD2.5m tender

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two local firms have won a JD2.5 million tender to bring electricity to 106 villages in the Amman, Balqa, Zarqa and Madaba governorates as part of the second phase of the rural electrification project in the country.

In announcing the tender winners Saturday, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas said the project will be financed from a fund especially created in 1992 to collect one fils for every kilowatt of electrical energy consumed by households and businesses in the country.

The project entails providing electric power to villages and settlements comprising at least 20 homes. It is expected to be completed in 10 months, in accordance with the terms of the agreements, the minister said.

According to Dr. Dabbas, the second stage, which started a few months ago, began work to provide electricity to villages and settlements in northern and southern regions of the country. He said the work was being conducted in a cooperative effort between the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Irbid District Electricity Company. Dr. Dabbas added that this part of the second phase of the project would be completed by the first quarter of 1997.

Cairo meeting checks escalation

(Continued from page 1)
The prime minister stressed that "Jordan has been the first country to seek Arab reconciliation based on constructive dialogue but we would not be lenient in matters pertaining to national and pan-Arab security."

King Hussein said that he was deeply satisfied with the outcome of the meeting with President Assad.

"I have said that on the personal level President Assad is a dear brother and old friend and colleague in the different stages of the common struggle," said King Hussein in a press statement after the meeting, which was described by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as having been held in an atmosphere of frankness and keenness to end differences between the two countries.

"In my meetings with my brothers I suggested that Jordan and Syria be allowed the chance to discuss in detail a host of issues because we cannot claim to have turned a new page in our relations without discussing important issues, and this was also the view of President Assad," added King Hussein.

"We had a good start and I believe that we have covered some ground and I hope that there will be other meetings," King Hussein said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said that the two leaders had a very good meeting where they discussed the peace process, the gener-

al situation in the region. He described the meeting as one of the most important developments of the current summit.

"The two leaders' meeting is considered as an important step towards reuniting the Arab ranks and towards frank discussions of disputes," added Mr. Musa.

President Assad described his meeting with King Hussein as "good" in response to a question by a Jordanian journalist following the meeting which was held at the Meridian Hotel. But Mr. Assad declined to give further details about the meeting.

Mr. Kabariti said Jordan opposes "creating unnecessary hostilities" with Turkey because of its military accord with Israel, pointing out that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance had not stopped Syria from seeking good relations with the United States.

Mr. Kabariti demanded that "Syria support Jordan's national interests on the same basis as we are ready to back Syria in restoring its occupied lands."

The Jordanian information minister, Marwan Muasher said the meeting between the

two leaders was "very positive" and augured well for a "new beginning."

"The meeting went very well. Problems between Syria and Jordan were narrowed," Dr. Muasher said. Earlier he said King Hussein would be "very frank and open."

"The Egyptian president sat in on the meeting for 15 minutes and then left to allow the Syrian and Jordanian leaders to speak privately," Dr. Muasher said.

It was the first time the two leaders had met since May 1994, five months before Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty, which drew sharp criticism from Syria.

EU urges

(Continued from page 1)
initiated the landmark Oslo peace accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and supported trading land for peace.

However, diplomats said the EU leaders believed that while being firm on the principles for peace, it was important to give Mr. Netanyahu a fair chance.

A minister in Mr. Netanyahu's new government denied Saturday that the new Israeli regime was compliant to territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

"I don't think we must

compromise or have with what to compromise on the Golan Heights," Refael Eitan, the new right-wing agriculture and environment minister said on Israel Radio.

"The government has stated that the Golan Heights is vital to our interests and we will not go down from the Golan Heights," Mr. Eitan's comments followed on the heels of the appeasing message late Friday by Mr. Levy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FILM**
 - * Documentary film entitled "Jurnal Abdul Nassar" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 8:00 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS**
 - * Display of hand-made carpets by Egyptian craftsman and artist Mas'ud Bashu at Alta Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303) until June 27.
 - * Abstract (plastic art by Arab women artists at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until July 4.
 - * Fine arts exhibition entitled "What About Figures" by Noelle Shawa at Concept for Consultancy Quarters (Tel. 815-384), until June 30.
 - * Works by contemporary Arab artists at Durat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 30.
 - * Photography exhibit by American photographer George Vass entitled "Passage Across the Jordan" at the American Centre, until June 23.
 - * Works by Rafei Majzoub at the French Cultural Centre, until June 27.
 - * Works by Ahmad Nawash at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 29 (Tel. 623297).

'If Chechens want independence, they should have it' — Lebed

BONN (AFP) — Alexander Lebed, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's new national security adviser, said in an interview published here that he favoured self-determination and a referendum for the breakaway Republic of Chechnya.

"If the (Chechen) people want independence, they should have it," Gen. Lebed told the German weekly Der Spiegel in its edition to be published Monday.

Gen. Lebed, who finished third in Russia's presidential election first round poll last Sunday and whose supporters are being assiduously courted by Mr. Yeltsin and his Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov, said he was confident the 18-month-old conflict in Chechnya could be brought to a rapid conclusion.

The men responsible for the war were to be found in Moscow, he said. "We still need clarification on this," he said.

The Russian news agency Interfax said Saturday that Gen. Lebed may visit Chechnya Monday. Citing a military source, the agency said he would then hold talks with the pro-Russian Chechen leadership and federal military command on implementation of a peace accord reached between Moscow and the Chechen rebels last month.

He could also join the next round of full-scale talks between federal nego-

tiators and Chechen separatist leaders if they go ahead, the official added.

After his appointment as Russia's senior security official immediately after the first round of presidential polling, Gen. Lebed said he would be taking personal charge of the Chechnya issue.

He told Der Spiegel that Moscow could start "making Chechnya independent of the Russian state in budgetary terms" — a stark contrast with his proposal during the election campaign to close off Chechnya's frontiers and cut off all financial assistance.

Gen. Lebed said he was open to the idea of Communist participation in a coalition government, despite the "immense suffering" communism had caused the Russian people. He said he saw his present position as a transitional stage and said his immediate concern was to establish "order in the country and security for all citizens."

Asked whether he could see himself as Russian president by the year 2000, when presidential elections would again fall due, Gen. Lebed — seen by some commentators as being prepared to succeed Mr. Yeltsin should the incumbent gain reelection — replied: "Maybe even sooner."

Meanwhile five Russian soldiers died and three were injured when their armoured vehicle hit a mine in the Chechen capital Grozny, the com-

mander of Russian forces in the republic said Saturday.

The commander, cited by Interfax, said two other incidents in the past 24 hours had injured several Russian troops. He refused to give details.

A ceasefire deal, agreed between Chechen separatist leaders and Moscow earlier this month has been largely respected in Chechnya, although both sides accuse the other of isolated violations.

Separatist leaders have said they intend to respect the ceasefire at least until the second round of the Russian presidential election on July 3.

Russian and Chechen military commanders were to meet later Saturday to thrash out how to implement a peace plan on the ground in the mainly-Muslim Caucasus republic.

Chechen military Commander Aslan Maskhadov and Russian Commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov were to meet in the southeastern Shali region of Chechnya to work out a schedule for the withdrawal of Russian troops and the demilitarisation of the war zone agreed under an accord signed by the two sides on June 10.

It was the issue of Chechnya's independence from Russia, declared by separatists in November 1991, which finally triggered 18 months of war that has left an estimated 40,000 people dead, most of them civilians.



Seventy-year-old South Korean Kang Soon-Ae (centre), one of the former "comfort women," shouts anti-Japanese slogans during a protest in Cheju Island Saturday. Dozens of protesters demanded Tokyo government's compensation and apology to "comfort women" as Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto arrived for a two-day visit in South Korea (Reuters photo)

Hashimoto, Kim hold up dream of World Cup healing old wounds

CHEJU ISLAND, South Korea (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Saturday held out the dream that co-hosting the 2002 World Cup could help heal the wounds of history.

The two leaders, wearing open-necked shirts to emphasise the relaxed atmosphere, greeted each other with smiles and handshakes at the lobby of the Hotel Shilla, the venue of summit talks Saturday and Sunday.

"I hope the two countries make the best use of this event to bury their dark past ... and strengthen cooperative ties," Mr. Kim told Mr. Hashimoto over an informal dinner.

Mr. Hashimoto, speaking to journalists on the plane carrying him to the Cheju Summit, said the co-hosting could make a 30-year-old dream come true.

"I dreamed that we'd make friends (who he met in 1965) when I was a young parliamentarian. I hope it will come true through the joint hosting of the World Cup," Mr. Hashimoto said.

But hours before Mr. Hashimoto's arrival, a group of elderly South Korean war victims, including former Japanese army sex slaves, protested the visit, shouting "no summit talks without liquidating legacies of the past!"

The protesters were stopped by a contingent of plainclothes policemen some 10 meters away from the Japanese consulate in Cheju City, a 30-minute drive from the hotel.

Mr. Hashimoto's trip is the first by a Japanese prime minister since July 1994, and came as relations, long embittered over Japan's harsh 1910-1945 occupation of the Korean peninsula, were further strained by a series of disputes including a bitter territorial row over barren islets in the Sea of Japan.

The row over the Takeshima/Tokdo Islands has seen bilateral ties plunge in the

months since Mr. Hashimoto took office in January, with Mr. Kim snubbing a Japanese ruling coalition delegation.

Officials said the two leaders will try to steer around sensitive issues and focus on the problem of North Korea and the soccer finals.

The dinner Saturday was devoid of prepared speeches or ceremony, and Mr. Kim and Mr. Hashimoto were to discuss a wide range of international issues including Russia's election and China's nuclear test, officials said.

The dessert included a cake decorated with a soccer ball for a successful World Cup.

On Sunday, the two will have a private breakfast, to be followed by formal summit talks, with attention focused on the joint study of bilateral history and proposed four-way peace talks among North Korea and South Korea, the United States and China.

Mr. Kim is likely to ask Mr. Hashimoto to bring up the four-way conference at a meeting of Group of Seven leaders in Lyon, France next week.

The inflammatory topics of reparations for the former wartime sex slaves known as "comfort women" will be kept to side meetings between the South Korean and Japanese foreign ministers, South Korean officials said.

In Tokyo, Japanese officials said Mr. Hashimoto was expected to seek South Korea's understanding on Japan's approach toward North Korea, which has been anxious to win economic assistance from Seoul's allies.

In an editorial Saturday, Japan's leading daily, Yomiuri Shimbun, warned that the ill feeling between the two countries would not disappear easily.

"The important thing for the political leaders is to constantly remind their peoples that chilled bilateral ties will benefit none," the daily added.

Ghali wants to stay to complete reform

BONN (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, determined to win a second term of office despite the opposition of the United States, said in a newspaper interview that he wanted to complete the task of U.N. reform.

The U.S. says it will use its veto to prevent the election of the 73-year-old Egyptian for another five years, accusing him of failing to cut the United Nations' vast bureaucracy.

Dr. Ghali, concluding a three-day visit to Germany, said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had offered to let him stay on for one more year with U.S. blessing.

"But I turned it down," he said, according to a German translation of his comments, released ahead of publication in Saturday's Bonn daily General-Anzeiger.

"I'm not concerned with the post, but with fulfilling a task — political and institutional reform. And for that I need more time..."

"When I was elected five years ago, I said I was only available for one term of office. Then I began substantially to reduce the (U.N.) staff. I cut the budget and abolished high-ranking positions," he said.

"The General Assembly wants more savings. We are in the middle of a dramatic phase of reform... You can't just stop in the middle of it after five years and say: that's it."

Dr. Ghali said he had been surprised by the vehemence of the U.S. rejection, because such public statements were not usually made so early in the appointment procedure.

He has already said that there are still several months for Washington to change its mind.

He told the newspaper there were other reasons apart from U.N. reform why he should stay in office.

"I have been encouraged to stand by a large number of member states," he said. "I can't overlook that or push it aside."

"All U.N. secretaries-general have had two terms of office. Should I — the first African — not get a second term?"

Dr. Ghali also said there would be no lasting peace in the world until the North-South divide between rich and poor countries was tackled.

"And you mustn't forget: Two-thirds of the General Assembly consists of Third

World countries who are calling for a solution to these problems. Against this background, I must stand again."

Meanwhile the United Nations took the offensive Friday in its dispute with Washington over the second term for Dr. Ghali, issuing excerpts from laudatory speeches by President Bill Clinton and denouncing "lies" and a "U.N.-bashing virus."

U.N. spokesman Ahmad Fawzi started his daily briefing by reading two statements praising Dr. Ghali's leadership, disclosing only at the end of each that Mr. Clinton had been the speaker.

"I think I can speak for all of us in thanking the secretary-general for his ... very strong leadership of the United Nations," the president told a lunch for heads of state at U.N. Headquarters on Sept. 26, 1994.

"Mr. Secretary-General, you have kept our focus on building the kind of organisation that can effectively turn our ideals into reality," Mr. Clinton added.

And in a toast on the occasion of the world body's 50th anniversary last October, he thanked Dr. Ghali for "your leadership, your energy, your resolve and the vision of the United Nations and the world" for the next 50 years.

Mr. Fawzi took issue with "misinformation about the United Nations" which he said appeared in a recent newspaper article. He rejected such claims as that U.N. staff received "incredibly lucrative salaries" and that they paid no taxes.

"These are blatant lies, and I say lies deliberately, because this man was given the correct information, in writing ... but he chose to go with figures from a totally unreliable source," Dr. Fawzi continued.

"There's a virus going around, a U.N.-bashing virus. I don't know who started it but people are catching it, and suddenly they are regurgitating inaccuracies about this organisation," he said.

"Somebody has to tell the truth about the wonderful work that this organisation is doing and the hard work that the staff of this organisation are doing," Mr. Fawzi added.

Asked by a reporter whether any country other than the United States had opposed the reelection of Dr. Ghali, now visiting Germany, he replied: "I haven't heard of one yet ... If there is, they haven't made their positions public yet."

China to publish 'Atlas of Shame'

BEIJING (R) — China is to publish an "Atlas of Shame" to chart its humiliation at the hands of foreign powers in the last century, the Xinhua News Agency said. The atlas will consist of nearly 100 maps, complemented with written explanations, tables, and pictures to portray "graphic details" of the humiliation and invasions of China since the first Opium War in 1840, it said in an overnight report. Targeting young people as its main readers, the atlas will be published by the end of this year to mark China's resumption of sovereignty over the British colony of Hong Kong on July 1, 1997, it said.

Beijing companies fined for 'feudal' names

BEIJING (AFP) — Beijing authorities have fined 12 firms and warned a further 116 for using names deemed to be feudal or colonial in nature, a report said Friday. After examining 23,000 enterprises in the capital, the municipal administration for industry and commerce announced that 1,032 had "unreasonable" names, the Xinhua News Agency said. "Some of those names embodied feudalism and colonialism, others used names of foreign countries, cities, or enterprises in their own names, in a bid to take advantage of the latter's reputations," the agency said. The move comes less than a month after a similar crackdown in the southern boom city of Guangzhou, where shops, karaoke parlours and nightclubs often favour foreign words or complex forms of Chinese characters imported from neighbouring Hong Kong.

Investigators baffled by desert explorer's death

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese investigators are baffled by the death of a renowned explorer in the northwestern desert of Lop Nor which could fuel rumours about the supernatural dangers of exploring a long-hidden city. The circumstances behind the death of Yu Chunshun, whose blackened and blistered body was discovered after a 70-hour helicopter search by rescuers, remained "unexplained," the Xinhua News Agency reported Friday. Evidence suggests he had neither died of starvation nor in a sandstorm, it said. Yu, 48, had entered the desert in Xinjiang province alone on June 11, with just a two-day supply of food and water, on a journey to explore the buried ruins of the ancient city of Loulan, once an important oasis on the silk road linking China and Europe. The desert was hit by gale-force winds and had ground temperatures of 70 Centigrade (158 Fahrenheit), and the veteran explorer from Shanghai lost contact with base camp on June 14. Having located Mr. Yu, rescuers discounted the theory that he died of starvation after they found a half-full bag of dried beef and a dagger by his body. However, a medical examiner found no food in Mr. Yu's stomach after dissecting the corpse. The possibility that he died in a sandstorm was also discounted as he could have sheltered in his tent which was still standing when rescuers found the body. Xinhua said. In 1981, Peng Jinmu, a scientist from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and one of the many explorers attracted by the mysteries of Loulan, went missing in the same area and was never seen again. The 2,000-year-old city was discovered by Swedish explorer in the early 1900s buried under sand. It was abandoned more than 1,000 years ago when the Tarim River which nurtured it changed course and the silk road trade began to decline.

Whitewater prosecutor to investigate White House obtaining of FBI files

WASHINGTON (R) — The Whitewater special prosecutor Friday won approval to investigate whether criminal laws had been broken in the Clinton White House's obtaining of confidential FBI files on prominent Republicans and others.

A U.S. Court of Appeals ordered Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr to expand his already wide-ranging probe to the politically sensitive case on whether the White House improperly requested and received hundreds of FBI files.

The court told Mr. Starr to focus on any violation of federal criminal law by Anthony Marceca, a U.S. army investigator who worked at the White House from August 1993 through February 1994 and originally asked for the FBI background files.

It said Mr. Starr should determine whether Mr. Marceca, a temporary White House employee accused of submitting inaccurate request forms for the FBI files, committed a knowing and wilful false statement.

Mr. Starr also received the power to investigate whether any other person engaged in an unlawful conspiracy, aided in any federal offence, obstructed justice or made false testimony or statements in connection with the controversy.

The Appeals Court said Mr. Starr can seek indictments and prosecute cases if appropriate.

At issue is whether the White House improperly sought and obtained sensitive FBI files on more than 400 people, including Republicans such as former Secretary of State James Baker and Reagan White House aide Kenneth Duberstein.

U.S. first lady could be dragged into ongoing Whitewater trial

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (R) — A defence lawyer threatened Friday to subpoena first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in the ongoing Whitewater trial but then changed his mind, saying he will not take the drastic step "at this time."

Attorney Dan Guthrie said at a court hearing that the first lady could counter prosecution evidence about \$180,000 in loans made to then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary in 1990.

Mr. Guthrie was persuaded to drop the threat when prosecutor Hickman Ewing said he was not alleging any wrongdoing by the Clintons in winning the loans, which were to help finance Bill Clinton's 1990 campaign for re-election as Arkansas governor.

But Mr. Guthrie left the door open to a subpoena of the first lady by saying it depended on prosecution strategy in the trial against two Arkansas bankers and allies of Bill Clinton.

"As long as they don't suggest there is anything illegal about the loans, we don't intend to call her," the defence lawyer told reporters at the end of Friday's session.

He complained that prosecutors were focusing too closely on the 1990 Clinton campaign.

Mr. Ewing responded by saying the campaign was central to the case, not because of any wrongdoing by the Clintons but because the defendants broke the law and defrauded their own bank in order to "ingratiate themselves" with Bill Clinton.

"There is nothing illegal about the (Clinton) loans. We've never contended that there was," Mr. Ewing said.

This is the second trial to stem from the Whitewater investigation into President Clinton's personal and political finances and has brought the White House many a headache.

Mr. Clinton has already been subpoenaed by the defence and is to make his videotaped testimony at the White House on July 7.

The special three-judge panel of the Appeals Court, which has authority over all special prosecutor cases, acted a day after Attorney General Janet Reno recommended that Mr. Starr take over the investigation from the FBI.

Ms. Reno cited a "political conflict of interest" with the FBI conducting an investigation of a matter to which it had been involved.

Ms. Reno said Mr. Marceca, who worked in the White House Office of Personnel Security, requested the FBI files, asserting the information was needed because the individuals required access to the White House.

She said the request forms were false because some individuals worked in the prior Republican administrations and no longer needed access to the White House.

Mr. Marceca in a sworn statement said he worked from various lists of names provided to him. But Ms. Reno said a former employee in the office testified to Congress the lists of individuals needing White House access were current.

Mr. Starr for nearly two years has been investigating the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas involving Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton in the 1980s, and the failure of a Little Rock savings and loan owned by one of their partners in the deal.

He won approval earlier this year to investigate the firing of the White House Travel Office staff in May 1993, a probe that involves former presidential aide David Watkins and the first lady's role in the affair.

And Bruce Lindsey, one of Mr. Clinton's senior aides and closest friends, was this week identified as an unindicted coconspirator in the case.

On trial here are Herby Branscum and Robert Hill, owners of the Perry County Bank in the rural town of Perryville.

The two men are accused of deliberately hiding from federal authorities large cash withdrawals from an account held by the Clinton campaign.

Mr. Ewing said the defendants committed the alleged crimes in order to "ingratiate themselves with the powers-that-be" in Arkansas at the time.

Mr. Clinton appointed both Mr. Branscum and Mr. Hill to powerful positions on state commissions following his election victory in November of 1990.

Mr. Ewing wants to examine Mr. Clinton's motives in making the appointments, although he admits he has no evidence of a "quid pro quo" — that the jobs came in exchange for contributions.

Prosecutors say Mr. Lindsey, who was treasurer of the 1990 gubernatorial campaign, joined Mr. Branscum and Mr. Hill in conspiring to hide large bank account withdrawals by the campaign from banking regulators.

Earlier Friday, prosecutors introduced as evidence a series of checks written by Mr. Branscum and Mr. Hill and members of their families to the Clinton campaign.

The checks equalled the approximate amount of expenses prosecutors allege the two defendants claimed in false expense reports from their bank.

Mr. Hill allegedly took \$15,500 to Mr. Clinton in December 1990 and gave him the money to help offset campaign debts.

Prosecutors contend the two men also discussed political appointments at the same meeting. A few weeks later, Mr. Clinton named Mr. Branscum to the influential Arkansas Highway Commission and later reappointed Mr. Hill to the state's Bank Commission.

Pope balks at defending Nazi-era Catholic Church

PADERBORN, Germany (R) — Pope John Paul pulled back from defending the Roman Catholic Church's role during the Nazi Third Reich Saturday when he dropped a key part of a prepared speech claiming the church had resisted Hitler.

Preaching at a mass on the second day of his weekend visit to Germany, the 76-year-old Polish Pope praised three German priests and a nun who died in captivity because they refused to accept the Nazis' racist and anti-religious policies.

But he left out a passage of his prepared text which defended the cautious church policy towards the Nazis that has embarrassed post-war German Catholics and prompted Jewish criticism that the Vatican ignored the Holocaust.

The Pope celebrated mass for more than 70,000 people at a military air base outside this northwestern city, where he arrived Friday for his first trip to a reunited Germany.

He appeared in relatively good health. But, as customary since he broke a leg two years ago, he reached the high altar platform by an elevator rather than the steps.

In his sermon, the Pope mentioned Bernhard Lichtenberg and Karl Leisner, the two anti-Nazi priests he will put on the road to sainthood in Berlin Sunday, and an anti-Nazi priest and nun he beatified during a trip to Germany in 1987.

He then unexpectedly left out the following passage: "The four beatified persons symbolise the many Catholic women and men who, at the cost of many and diverse sacrifices, rejected National Socialist tyranny and resisted the brown (Nazi) ideology."

"They are thus part of the resistance offered by the whole church to a system contemptuous of God and human beings. They also stand for the many people who through their resistance and their sacrifices were able to keep alive the trust in the good in man and in a different and better Germany."

Jewish groups have for decades accused the German Catholic Church and the Vatican of looking the other way when the Nazis killed six million Jews during World War II.

The Pope wove his sermon around the horrors of World War II, which he lived through in his native Poland.

only the results of the congress were valid.

Jordan Times

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Encouraging beginning

THE MEETING between His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Cairo yesterday will be among the most significant achievements of the summit if it leads to complete reconciliation between Amman and Damascus. Bringing back normalcy to relations among Arab states to protect the interests of the Arab Nation is on top of the agenda of the summit. Those interests can be well-served if Jordan and Syria worked together to face the numerous challenges that face the two countries along with the rest of the Arab World.

But as King Hussein said after the talks with Mr. Assad, the meeting was only a beginning and more encounters must follow if full reconciliation between the two states is to be achieved. Jordan is willing to have more discussions with Syria over the issues and actions that led to the deterioration in ties between the two countries. The Kingdom wants to end all differences with Damascus. But it wants that done on solid bases that chart the course of reconciliation in accordance with clear guidelines and principles that respect the sovereignty of the two states and the naughtiness and particularities of each.

Jordan has adopted non-interference in the affairs of other states as a pillar of its foreign policy. It wants its ties with other states based on clear, civilised and institutionalised foundations that enhance economic and trade exchanges and ensure decent political dealings. Its demand for reciprocity in the way other countries approach it is legitimate, credible, and necessary for the sustainability of friendly and good neighbourly ties that serve the interests of all.

Ties between Syria and Jordan suffered a setback after the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty because Syria rejects the accord. Syria chose to ignore the fact that Jordan is a sovereign state that is quite capable of making the decisions that better suit its interests and needs. It also overlooked the fact that all the parties to the peace talks started from the same point in Madrid with the attainment of peace their final destination. And the most important reality that Damascus did not consider when it chose to cool off ties with the Kingdom is that Amman has done all it could in support of Syria and its demand for a return of the occupied Golan Heights. Jordan has been an advocate of comprehensive peace. It has been a supporter of Arab rights and has been a promoter of close links among all Arab states at a time when the whole world is moving into an era of regionalism where states of the same region have better chances of attaining their goals if they worked together in a fiercely competitive world market.

Jordan can only welcome better ties with Syria if Damascus is willing to deal with the Kingdom in the same manner of reason and responsibility with which the Kingdom has addressed its ties with Syria. Dialogue is the best way to end differences. Jordan is willing to talk and it is hoped that Syria is willing too. And if candour, openness, rationality, comprehensiveness and respect for the sovereignty of the two states prevail in future meetings that the two countries might hold, there is no doubt that Jordan and Syria would bury the hatchet. That would be to the benefit of not only Jordan and Syria, but the rest of the Arab World and the cause of peace, progress and stability in the whole Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Saturday discussed the coming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during which he will meet Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian officials but not the Syrian or Palestinian leaders. In his coming visit, scheduled to start Monday, Mr. Christopher will pay respect to the new Israeli leadership because, the writer said, Mr. Clinton is in need of Mr. Netanyahu's backing, and not vice versa, in the coming presidential elections. Fahed Fanek charged that the U.S., which has sponsored the peace process since the 1991 Madrid conference, is now retreating from it and going back on its commitment to the peace process which it has been sponsoring for the past five years. If the U.S. is blaming Syria for not responding to its call in time during the previous Israeli government's mandate, it can by no means blame Mr. Arafat who did all he could to reach a final settlement with the Jewish state, continued the writer. Mr. Christopher's visit, which excludes any talks with Mr. Arafat or the Syrian president, is aimed at obstructing rather than promoting the peace process, and it would give the Israelis a clear message of freezing the peace process on the Syrian and Palestinian fronts for the time being, charged the writer. He warned that the freezing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks on a final settlement constitutes a real danger to Jordan, more than any other Arab party besides the Palestinians.

A WRITER for Al Dustour Saturday discussed medical services provided by the hospitals of the public and private sectors, noting that the cost of such services is rising sharply by the day. The Ministry of Health is overburdened with growing demand on medical services by government employees and their dependents as well as the needy groups who by no means can get such services at the private hospitals, said Mohammad Daoud. At the same time the private hospitals can by no means reduce their bills simply because they have paid a great deal for their modern equipment, he noted. There is only one alternative to deal with the situation and that lies in providing a national health insurance system to guarantee decent medical services to all public sectors, suggested the writer. Under such a scheme, he said, the private sector companies can share with the government the cost of medical treatment not only of their own employees but also of the needy groups so that medical services can become comprehensive.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Ministry of Information — improve not remove

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

TWO FACTORS explain the idea behind the government's intention to abolish the Ministry of Information. The first is that the present government is enthusiastic about introducing change — after all, it is nicknamed "government of change"; the second is that the minister, Marwan Muasher, who was the spokesperson of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations with Israel for several years, prefers to carry on as a speaker on behalf of the government, rather than be a minister of information.

Perhaps before any decision is taken, some points should be taken into consideration.

— The idea of abolishing the Ministry of Information is not new. It was talked about by each minister of information since 1989, but only as a future step. Previous ministers meant it for democratic consumption. The present minister, it seems, means business.

— The suggested reorganisation of the Radio and Television Corporation has nothing to do with privatisation. The facilities will continue to be owned by the government. The staff will continue to be employed under the civil service system, and the board and management will be appointed by the government.

— The appointment of a board of directors to look after the TV corporation is not a magic formula of efficiency and competence. See the Royal Jordanian as an example.

— Financial autonomy is desirable. It can be achieved any time without having to abolish the Ministry of Information. Many public sector enterprises are financial-

ly and administratively autonomous but equally unsuccessful. See Aqaba Railway Corp., Amman Bus Service Corp., and again the Royal Jordanian.

— The minister claims that it is unable to run the TV properly due to pressures from above. Well, what is the guarantee that the pressure will disappear if the top man is no a minister but a chairman of the board? If anything, the pressure may increase and the appointee might be more accommodating.

— If the government is nice enough to withdraw from the media for the sake of democracy, why not put first things first. The government should first relinquish its ownership and control of the daily newspapers, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour.

— It is not true that the existence of the Ministry of Information is not consistent with democracy. The United States has a similar ministry called United States Information Agency (USIA). It is in charge of the American propaganda apparatus all over the world. In Britain, the BBC is owned and financed by the government. It gets its guidance from the Foreign Office; no one can be employed by the BBC before getting clearance from the British Intelligence Service (M15). In Israel, the Arab radio is said to be run by the Mossad.

— All Arab countries still have ministries of information. One wonders why the government of Jordan alone should give up its information arm.

— It is important for the government-owned and managed media to have a political head (a minister) answer-

able to the Parliament, rather than an obedient civil servant.

— The recommended board to oversee the TV and radio stations will not achieve the desired independence. According to the draft law, the board will include 14 members, of which seven are government officials and seven are chosen by the government from the private sector i.e., seven friends of the government. The executive officer is also a government appointee.

— The Jordanian official media have limited resources, yet they cannot be fairly described as failure. The media proved to be effective during intifada (the word was coined by Jordan TV) during the second Gulf war, and in carrying the democratic message that Syria had been jamming TV signals for five years to "protect" the Syrian people from democratic broadcast.

— Having a ministry of information does not necessarily mean that the government of the day should dominate and monopolise airtime. The opposition should be given the opportunity to air their views and present alternative opinions. This will indirectly serve the government by making its media credible.

— Finally, abolishing the ministry of information prematurely is a suicidal action supported mostly by those who would like to see the Jordanian state disintegrate.

Dr. Muasher was able to convince Qatar to dismantle its ministry of information, an indication that the idea has nothing to do with democracy; I hope he will not be as successful with the Jordanians.

Greece's ruling Socialists to decide on who runs party

By Stephen Weeks
Reuters

ATHENS — Greece's fractious ruling Socialists meet next week to decide who is in charge now that iron-fisted party founder Andreas Papandreu is confined to his home after a long illness.

The fight for control of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) has Mr. Papandreu's lieutenants at each others' throats and raised concerns about whether the party can hold together.

Mr. Papandreu, 77, was a master at playing off rival factions and keeping challengers to his rule at bay, but in his absence deep animosities have boiled over.

These internal clashes resemble bitter-guard, battles," said Environment and Public Works Minister Costas Laliotis recently.

"Any victories will be Pyrrhic victories. The "vic-

tors' and "vanquished" will simply reflect a weakened, dulled, exhausted PASOK, counting its days until it loses the war (elections)."

Mr. Laliotis, a young and rising PASOK star, has been trying to mediate between the protagonists before the fourth congress in PASOK's 22-year history, set for June 27 to 30.

But as the day approaches for more than 4,000 delegates to meet at Athens Olympic stadium, the infighting has intensified and battle lines have become more pronounced.

Pro-European reformers, who want PASOK to set a new course, are pitted against those who are loyal to Papandreu's populism — which, often led to anti-American, anti-NATO and anti-European stands.

Ironically, Costas Simitis, a bland technocrat who opposed Papandreu's policies and leadership for years, won the first round in

the fight for PASOK by succeeding Papandreu as premier in January.

With Mr. Papandreu confined to hospital with pneumonia, PASOK's parliamentary group voted narrowly for Mr. Simitis to take over as prime minister until scheduled elections due late next year.

But Mr. Papandreu refused to relinquish his position as PASOK president, meaning the party machine remains in his hands and if PASOK wins the election, he would receive the mandate to form a government.

That is a disquieting thought for Mr. Simitis, especially since Mr. Papandreu has begun appearing in carefully staged television scenes — so far only seen, and not heard.

The question gripping PASOK is whether Papandreu, confined to hospital or home since

November, will appear at the congress — perhaps on video — and in a characteristic surprise throw his support to one faction.

"If Papandreu is capable of such a move, he could name his own deputy PASOK leader. The congress would never deny him this. But no one knows whether he is physically or mentally capable of such a move," said one European Union diplomat.

Mr. Simitis, 59, has turned the congress into an all-or-nothing gamble by saying he wants a clear answer to who runs PASOK and dropping veiled threats to force early elections by resigning if he fails to win both the government and party machine.

The prize he wants is the new post of deputy PASOK leader, which will oversee day-to-day organisation and prepare the next general election. This would give Mr. Simitis a lock on

PASOK power.

The central committee created the new post to ensure a calm transition to the post-Papandreu era, but it has become a poisoned chalice which threatens to destroy the party.

"The feeling is that Simitis is making the running right now and will come out of the congress stronger, although perhaps not as strong as he would like. Papandreu is the wild card but he is also a spent force," said another EU diplomat.

Mr. Simitis's main rival is Papandreu's close confidant, Akis Tsohatzopoulos, who is determined to get his share of power and has suggested a collective PASOK leadership. He has declared he will stand for deputy party leader at the congress.

Mr. Papandreu's shadow for years, Mr. Tsohatzopoulos has come out into the open recently to attack Mr. Simitis and some

of his closest political supporters in PASOK.

"I disagree with the efforts of Simitis to gather all power into his own hands," he said in a recent interview. "There are many in PASOK today who don't want to hear about Simitis."

Mr. Tsohatzopoulos, 57, came surprisingly close to Mr. Simitis in the 87-75 vote in January to replace Mr. Papandreu as premier.

He stressed that Mr. Simitis had proved to be a good "factional leader", promoting his own people, but failed as a unifying PASOK party leader.

That kind of talk, along with the branding of Mr. Simitis's Foreign Minister, Theodore Pangalos, as "dangerous", has set the stage for some PASOK bloodletting at the congress.

The trouble with so-called nuclear weapons-free zones

By Brahma Chellaney

NEW DELHI — Another "nuclear weapons-free zone" was unveiled last month when African states signed the treaty of Pelindaba. Four other regions of the world have also been declared nuclear-free: Southeast Asia in 1995, the South Pacific in 1985, Latin America and the Caribbean in 1967, and Antarctica in 1951.

The African pact means that much of the southern hemisphere is now covered by agreements outlawing nuclear testing and the threat or use of nuclear force. But how genuinely can that hemisphere be considered nuclear-free, and how secure from nuclear dangers are countries belonging to a nuclear weapons-free zone?

One clue comes from American and British insistence on exempting the Indian Ocean territory of Diego Garcia from Africa's zone and Russia's consequent reservations about the treaty. Diego Garcia, a base for American and British military forces, plays a key role in American and British nuclear deterrence.

Nuclear weapons-free zones have been accepted by the five states that have declared their possession of nuclear weapons — the United States, Britain, Russia, France and China — only when they do not conflict with their strategic interests.

These interests have prompted the five nuclear powers to support such zones in some regions, including the Indian sub-continent, but not in others, such as Eastern Europe. Even when the five powers have supported a nuclear weapons-free zone, one or more of these powers has held up its entry into effective force.

The treaty of Rarotonga

took effect in 1985 during the cold war and was intended to prevent the South Pacific from becoming a theatre for superpower rivalries. Yet it was embraced only late this past March by the United States, Britain and France, long after its original purpose had been lost.

The three powers, which control territories in the South Pacific, signed the treaty's protocols only after a final round of French nuclear tests in the region were carried out, with British and American logistical and other assistance, despite objections from many Asia-Pacific nations.

The objectives of the Southeast Asian nuclear weapons-free zone are being frustrated by opposition from all five nuclear powers, which resent either the nature of the security assurances sought from them or the inclusion of continental shelves and offshore exclusive economic zones, or both.

Unless the nuclear powers accept the Southeast Asian treaty, the 10-nation zone will lack reciprocal obligations and carry little weight.

Nuclear weapons-free zones have been established by regional states largely in response to slow progress on global disarmament and the wide recognition that nuclear weapons will remain key instruments of power in the foreseeable future.

The geostrategic value of such weapons is evident from the fact that there is not a single major economy today without the protection of a nuclear arsenal or umbrella. The giant U.S. nuclear umbrella alone shields much of Western Europe, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea.

The countries being drawn to such zones are signatories to the 1968 non-proliferation treaty and can

thus have no ambitions to develop nuclear weapons. By accepting a nuclear weapons-free zone, they are in effect providing legal commitments not to develop, stock or test any nuclear explosive device.

Nations joining a zone are seeking to insulate themselves from the dangers of nuclear warfare. But the main danger is that such zones can lull their member states into a mistaken sense of nuclear security.

Nuclear weapons-free zones can provide comfort from the harsh nuclear realities, but not from the perils of nuclear war.

Nuclear weapons respect no national or zonal frontiers. In an age in which nuclear weapons can be fired from anywhere into any region, the concept of a nuclear weapons-free zone makes little military sense.

If it happens to be carried by the wind, the radioactive fallout from a nuclear exchange will spill over into another region, even if that region is a nuclear weapons-free zone.

The greatest allure of such a zone is the set of reciprocal commitments provided by the nuclear powers in a legally binding instrument. These commitments include security assurances not to use or threaten to use nuclear arms against regional parties, and no placement of such weapons within the zone.

However, as the Southeast Asia treaty shows, getting unconditional security assurances from the nuclear powers is like smuggling up to a group of roaring lions.

The Western nuclear states and Russia have balked at giving unconditional security assurances as required by the treaty's protocol, which bans the threat or use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances against regional parties or other targets within the

zone.

These powers, which have urged the International Court of Justice in the Hague not to declare the threat or use of nuclear weapons unlawful, favour qualified language.

The term "nuclear weapons-free" is really a misnomer. Submarines armed with nuclear weapons, the core constituents of a modern military force, stay under water for days, scoffing at the ban imposed by nuclear weapons-free zones on stationing of nuclear arms in the area.

Moreover, such zones do not restrict the movement of nuclear weapons by air or sea. If there is anything "free" about a nuclear weapons-free zone, it is that nuclear-armed ships, submarines and aircraft can move about freely.

Although no such zone incorporates mechanisms to monitor compliance by the nuclear powers with their commitments, these states have objected to the inclusion of continental shelves and exclusive economic zones in the Southeast Asia zone. This is because they do not want a vexatious political precedent to be set that could lead to regional demands for verification.

The nuclear powers, eager to boost their disarmament credentials so as to discourage other countries from developing nuclear weapons, have always been ready to accept a nuclear weapons-free zone so long as it does not significantly constrain the movement and deployment of nuclear arms.

No international disarmament treaty has yet been concluded that seeks to materially alter the situation in which there are only five "authorised" nuclear powers. The non-proliferation treaty and the proposed treaty to ban nuclear weapons testing are also designed to preserve the status quo.

The 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention was concluded after two decades of negotiations only when such weapons came to be widely viewed as a "poor nation's nuclear deterrent."

Nuclear weapons-free zones can serve as a palliative but not as the antidote to nuclear dangers.

The rules of such a zone, like those of any other disarmament treaty, can operate only in peacetime. Under international law, the "rules of warfare" take over when disarmament agreements fail in their mission to prevent war. A nuclear weapons-free zone cannot remain valid in a nuclear conflict, which would negate the non-proliferation treaty and other peacetime treaties.

Real international security can come only when the legitimacy of all weapons of mass destruction is removed and their elimination is completed. Today, the most deadly of such weapons remain an integral part of the military doctrines and strategies of the five nuclear powers.

The writer is professor of security studies at the Centre for Policy Research, a think tank in New Delhi. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Women in power

To the Editor:

I HAVE just returned to my home in Wiltshire, England, from a truly marvellous week in Amman, my second in a year. Both times I was in Amman at the extremely welcome invitation of Dr. David Burton and Azza Hammoudi of the British Council, responding also to an invitation from HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal and Rand Hindawi.

My speciality is training women for senior roles in the politics and public life of their countries because for many years it has been my profound belief that all nations would benefit greatly by the inclusion of the majority gender in the direction and development of their country and the world itself. And it should not continue to be assumed without question that men are against this progressive concept.

When the participants in my workshops were asked to go out and ask people at random whether they would or would not vote for a woman candidate, 62 per cent said they would have no trouble or difficulty whatsoever voting for a woman when the elections in Jordan take place, in November 1997.

The endorsement of Princess Basma and the Jordanian National Forum for Women reinforces my belief that Jordan is destined to be a leader in women-to-public life throughout the Middle East, heralding progress with stability, with a great pool of talent to call upon.

Lesley Abdela,
The Lodge Conock Manor,
Wiltshire SN10 3QQ,
U.K.

World Bank recommends global phase-out of leaded gasoline

By Dr. Fahed Fakhri

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WASHINGTON — The World Bank is calling for a worldwide phase-out of leaded gasoline to reduce health problems such as neurological damage, high blood pressure and heart disease linked to lead in the urban environment. Most of the 1.7 billion urban dwellers in developing countries are now at risk from lead poisoning.

"The benefits of doing away with leaded gasoline are immediate and measurable, and far outweigh the costs," says Cairo Koch-Weser, managing director of the World Bank. "The conversion to unleaded gasoline could be carried out within five years if countries commit themselves to a comprehensive phase-out programme. The challenge is to change the incentives to petroleum refineries and gasoline users."

Mr. Koch-Weser says the World Bank, which has spent \$25 billion on urban projects since 1972, has taken an active role in public education and policy efforts to bring about the lead phase-out, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America.

The World Bank can help with the conversion by

assisting governments in designing a fast lead phase-out schedule and incentive policy framework; facilitating intergovernmental cooperation; and brokering financial packages through loans, guarantees and attracting private investments.

"Children will be the greatest beneficiaries of a global phase out of leaded gasoline," explains Mr. Koch-Weser. "It is this age group who suffers lifetime disabilities caused by early exposure to lead, such as learning disabilities, hearing loss, reduced attention spans, behavioural abnormalities and a drop of several points in IQ."

In developing countries, all urban children under 2 years of age and more than 80 per cent of those between the ages of 3 and 5 are suspected to have blood lead levels exceeding health standards set by the World Health Organisation. About 15 to 18 million children in these countries may suffer permanent brain damage due to lead poisoning.

Leaded gasoline causes about 90 per cent of airborne lead pollution in cities. The remaining 10 per cent comes from factories and power plants. Other sources of lead exposure

include lead pipes or lead-based solders in water supply systems, lead-based paint and ceramics.

Using unleaded gasoline makes sense. Countries can save five to 10 times the cost of converting to unleaded gas in health and economic savings, the World Bank says. The United States saved more than \$10 for every \$1 it invested in the conversion due to reduced health costs, savings on engine maintenance and improved fuel efficiency.

Leaded gasoline, because it contains lead salts and halogen acids causes greater corrosion of automobile exhaust systems and requires more frequent oil and spark plug changes. According to U.S. studies, switching from leaded to unleaded gasoline may increase engine life by as much as 150 per cent.

Shifting from the production of leaded to unleaded gasoline is technically simple. Modern refineries do not need to make extensive investments. Old refineries, however, often have obsolete technology that cannot produce unleaded gasoline. Many of these refineries run at a loss and should be either modernised or closed

down. A successful lead phase-out programme depends on whether these difficult measures are taken.

Refinery modifications necessary to phase out lead typically pay for themselves in terms of improved productivity and profitability. If governments allow refineries to earn a reasonable return on their investment, financing is usually available from commercial sources. This requires appropriate price, tax and import policies. The cost of phasing out lead from gasoline is about \$0.02 per litre, or some \$0.07 per gallon, declining over time.

Government policies can smooth the conversion to unleaded fuels by pricing unleaded gasoline cheaper than leaded to encourage its wider use, and educating the public on the economic and health benefits of using unleaded gasoline.

"Much of the reason that unleaded gas is not used universally is the belief that you must have an expensive catalytic converter in each car in order to use this fuel," explains Ismail Serageldin, the World Bank's vice president for Environmentally Sustainable Development. "That is simply wrong — cars can run

on unleaded gas without the converter, and only some older models need lubricating additives."

Contrary to some claims, unleaded gasoline need not contain higher amounts of benzene — a known carcinogen — than leaded gas if fuel specifications are properly set. The exposure to benzene from gasoline mainly comes from evaporation of gasoline fumes, which occur with or without catalytic converters. The use of unleaded gasoline without catalytic converters therefore need not increase health risks. Benzene evaporation should be controlled in all cases.

Health risks

Lead is a heavy metal that has long been known as a neurotoxin, a substance that adversely affects the nervous system even at low levels of exposure. Recent studies indicate that no safe level of lead exists.

Children are especially susceptible to lead because their digestive systems have fast absorption rates for heavy metals. Because lead particles settle on surfaces, children ingest contaminated dust and soil simply by putting their fingers in their mouths or by chewing on

contaminated toys. Poor children are most at risk because malnourishment or physical stress intensifies disabilities caused by lead absorption. For adults, even low levels of lead absorption — occurring usually through inhalation — causes hypertension, blood pressure and heart disease.

The cities where people are believed to be most exposed to high lead levels are: Algiers, Algeria; Cairo, Egypt; Cape Town, South Africa; Hong Kong; Jakarta, Indonesia; Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Karachi, Pakistan; Lagos, Nigeria; Lima, Peru; Mexico City, Mexico; and Nairobi, Kenya.

In Bangkok excessive exposure to lead caused 200,000-500,000 cases of hypertension, resulting in some 400 deaths per year in the late 1980s. Jakarta has 130,000 cases of hypertension each year due to lead. In Cairo, more than 800 infants die annually due to their mothers' exposure to lead.

Lead contamination and exposure in cities is typically three to four times higher than in the suburbs and 10 times higher than in rural areas. For example, in the mid-1980s, children living in the centre of Budapest had blood lead levels of

24.4 mg/dl (microgrammes per decilitre) — three times higher than the 7.6 mg/dl average for suburban children. The result is that children living in the inner cities may suffer as much as a four-point IQ loss compared to those in the suburbs.

When leaded gasoline was banned in the United States, lead exposure dissipated quickly. In 1976, when leaded gas was still used extensively, the average blood lead level for Americans was 16 mg/dl; in 1980, it dropped to around 10 mg/dl; today the level is less than 3 mg/dl.

Leaded gas use increasing

Because of soaring increases in automobile use worldwide, the problems will only worsen if leaded gas continues to be used. In 1990, there were some 51.8 million cars and trucks worldwide. By 2010 that number will grow to 816 million, with most of the growth occurring in developing countries and Central and Eastern Europe.

Not only is automobile use increasing in developing world cities, but because urban populations typically have higher con-

centrations, larger numbers of people are being exposed to deadly lead pollution. Today, 1.7 billion people live in these cities — by 2025 the global urban population will double to 4 billion.

Several countries have banned all leaded gasoline, including Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Japan, Sweden, Slovakia and the United States. With World Bank support, Thailand banned leaded gasoline in 1995 after converting its petroleum production to unleaded fuel.

In many parts of the world, however, lead additives are still used in alarmingly large quantities in gasoline. In Africa, only high lead content gasoline is used — in some cases as high as 0.8 grammes/litre — more than twice the level that the United States allowed in the 1970s. In many parts of the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, high lead content gasoline is the standard, with only limited quantities of unleaded gasoline used.

The World Bank

Dialogue, not bullets and explosives, can end differences — King Hussein

(Continued from page 1)

terrorism to achieve political goals.

The King was also unequivocal in expressing determination to pursue the peace process and to protect that which has been achieved since the launching of Madrid Conference in 1991.

"We have opted for peace as a strategic choice," said the King. "We intend to preserve our achievements, to consolidate them and to enhance them. We shall not return to the starting point, but we shall 'forge ahead'."

The King, who stressed that Jordan was determined to preserve peace in its spirit and substance, "not only in form, the goal not the means."

The King said peace has the two dimensions of the peace process which means negotiations and proposals and the second is the realisation of real peace whose objective are stability, growth, development and prosperity.

"This necessarily means that we refuse to let the peace process continue forever if this implies that negotiations become in themselves the objective for the achievement of goals far removed from peace," he said.

The King said the Palestinian problem is the essence of the conflict, and without a solution to it peace cannot be comprehensive.

"Peace" cannot be just unless it secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, under their legitimate leadership which was elected by free ballot," King Hussein said.

The King said peace must also include the return to Syria of its territories that were occupied after June 4, 1967 as stated in Security Council Resolution 242 and the return to Lebanon of its occupied land and sovereignty as called for in Resolution 425.

"The most recent developments in the region must not lead us to panic, which would reflect unduly our position. Duty calls upon us to reaffirm what all the recent Arab positions asserted, the call for a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic choice, and the inadmissibility of going back or relinquishing what has been achieved," King Hussein said.

"In this quest, we must seek to enlarge the areas of agreement by our common will, so that we can be an effective force. We must be such, or we shall not be at all," the King told the summit.

The King said that the preservation of the territorial unity of Iraq was a duty that must be fulfilled diligently. He said Arabs must work together to alleviate the

suffering and agony of the Iraqi people and to enable Iraq to resume its rightful place in the Arab World within the context of Arab and international legitimacy.

The King also expressed solidarity with Yemen and the United Arab Emirates and belief in the need to resolve disputes through peaceful means.

"We also stand in with force in support of the security, stability, and independence of Bahrain as well as the efforts of the Algerian leadership to achieve national reconciliation and responsible democracy," King Hussein told the summit.

Following is the full text of the King's speech:

Your Excellency, our brother, President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak, Dear brothers,

I extend to you all an Arab greeting.

This, by the grace of God, is the summit of good and success. It unites us on the cherished land of Egypt, at the invitation of its president and leader, our brother Mohammad Hosni Mubarak. It unites us, as per the kind invitation at summit level, where matters are discussed in a spirit of brotherhood, amity, and candour, and where debates take place objectively and with a sincere will to crystallise a common outlook that embodies convergence of opinions and outlooks, in order to develop the common Arab will necessary to protect Arab rights.

On this basis, brothers, and in this spirit, we accepted the invitation, as we have every time in the past, hoping that this conference will succeed in rising to the level of our responsibilities, to fulfill our duty to our Arab Nation, our people, and our future generations. As for Egypt, it is in the heart and conscience of all Arabs. It was at the vanguard of the Arab struggle and sacrifice. It gave of the blood of its sons, and of their aspiration to a life in prosperity, security, and stability, in embodiment of leadership and the pioneering spirit in our nation. It was at the forefront in the field of battle, as it was the spearhead in the quest for peace.

Brothers,

We have stated that the state of the Arab World today is relatively better than it was in the recent past. Yet, it is still characterised by frustration. The Arab state of affairs is still governed by resignation, which prevents us from moving to a state characterised by courage, objectivity, and realism, where we hold ourselves and others accountable by the same standards, where we learn the lessons of the past, where we develop our ability for calm reasoning and deeper understanding, and where we

acknowledge the errors and shortcomings of Arab current reality, as well as the failure of many ideas and slogans. At present we ignore objective reality, and the pressing demands of the future. We defend that which is worthy of criticism. We have no power save against one another. This has given rise to suspicions and fears. It has caused some to replace civilised brotherly dialogue by the export of nefarious attempts, that kill the slightest hope of restoring real Arab solidarity based on firm foundations of clarity of intentions, and goodwill.

Since its birth, Jordan has devoted itself to this nation. It has been nothing but a protector of Arab territories and interests, and a defender of the Arab cause. It will continue, God willing, to call in sincerity and good faith, on Arabs to build bridges of trust and solidarity among themselves. This will always be Jordan's course, because the call for Arab solidarity emanates from the conscience of Jordan and its people. It reflects Jordan's face, its pulse, and its inner being. It mirrors Jordan's constant care for the nation. It embodies Jordan's message, and its noble Arab nationalist principles. Experience has taught us that slogans are not an adequate substitute for action. Words that bear a hidden meaning, different from that which they communicate, do not lay good foundations of trust, on which to build healthy solidarity.

Solidarity should not be a seasonal demand, when the call for it serves the interest of one party and not another. We maintain that every Arab state has the right to seek protection in a united Arab stand; but we deny any state the right to protect the forces of evil and terrorism, that seek to achieve their designs at times under the guise of religion, and at others under the pretext of ideology. If we want Arab solidarity to be true in word and deed, we must recall the courageous and responsible initiative of the president and leader of Egypt in holding the summit of Sharm Al Sheikh. That summit addressed the peace process and the question of terrorism. It emphasised the need to fight terrorism, regardless of the identity of its perpetrators and victims, or its alleged objectives. Ultimately, terrorism destroys both the aggressor and the victim in equal measure. In particular, we must confront the problem of cross-border terrorism, through condemnation, pursuit, and through the liquidation of all pockets of terrorism, wherever their dens may be. Whatever may be their principles, and whoever may be their organisers or victims.

Brothers,

Ordinary Arab have paid dearly for discord and conflict among brothers. They expect this summit to create a mechanism that curbs conflicts and border disputes, re-

moves their causes, and prevents them from intensifying and expanding. We have a good precedent to follow in the wise course of action that was agreed and pursued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Yemen and the State of Qatar. We hope that this will set a precedent for solving all border disputes between our states, in the same spirit of responsibility, realism, and Arab Islamic brotherhood.

Today more than ever, the Arab Nation needs clarity of vision and purpose. It would be wise to call things by their proper names. Hence our reference to terrorism and violence: the opposites of peace and stability. Hence our call to make peace our objective, and to make its development and enhancement our motto. The Arab people have long suffered from dissension and strife. They have been deprived of peace and security for long, dark decades. They deserve that we, their leaders, should have the fear of God in our hearts as we rule. We must shun disputes. We must work together in good faith and self denial, and we must put the past behind us. We must forget and forgive, for the good of our nation, and to secure for it a better future and a respectable place among nations. We live in a world that moves forward. It does not wait for the hesitant. It has no place for the doubters and those that sow doubt. As we express our appreciation to Egypt for its leadership and its pioneering role in the quest for peace, we recall that its perceptiveness in testing Israel's desire for peace was successful, and the will for peace was consolidated despite all the challenges and dangers, the most dangerous of which was the invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

The effective weapon against this danger was peace which Egypt had achieved with Israel, and no other weapon, whether in the countries surrounding Israel, or on Lebanon's territory.

We believe that peace has two principal dimensions: The first is the peace process, consisting of negotiations, exchanges of proposals, further negotiations, and so on. The second dimension is the realisation of real peace, and the achievement of its objectives that are stability, growth, development, and prosperity. This necessarily means that we refuse to let the peace process continue forever, if this implies that negotiations become in themselves the objective for the achievement of goals far removed from peace.

Brothers,

We have opted for peace as a strategic choice. From the beginning, everyone realised that negotiations would not be simple, but arduous and complicated. The Madrid conference was the only one that made progress out of the scores of initiatives since 1967 and the Rogers Plan. Therefore we held on to the peace process that started in Madrid, and we were eager to let it progress and succeed. Our conviction grew that this process was the only available option; that it was the only possible means to bring the conflict to a just and lasting solution that can endure. Here we intend to preserve our achievements, to consolidate them, and to enhance them. We shall not return to the starting point, but we shall forge ahead. We also mean to preserve peace in its spirit and substance, not only its form — the goal, not the means. Our conviction is reinforced everyday that the Palestinian question is the essence of the conflict. Without a solution to this problem, peace cannot be comprehensive. It cannot be just unless it secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, under their legitimate leadership, which was elected by a free direct ballot.

Peace must also include the return to Syria of its territories that were occupied after June 4, 1967, as stated in Security Council Resolution 242, and the return to Lebanon of its sovereignty and rights on its territories, so that it may stay as it has always been, a hub of civilisation, and an independent sovereign state, as contemplated in Security Council Resolution 425.

Brothers,

The most recent developments in the region must not lead us to panic, which would reflect unduly our position. Duty calls upon us to reaffirm what all the recent Arab positions asserted, the call for "a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic choice, and the inadmissibility of going back or relinquishing what has been achieved." In this quest, we must seek to enlarge the areas of agreement by our common will, so that we can be an effective force. We must be such, or we shall not be at all. We must consolidate our policies individually and collectively. We must keep our economic and human relations neutral, and distant from our political disputes. We recall and we reiterate the call that we made at the Amman summit, which was to adopt plans of action that are compatible with the scale of Arab resources. We must apply the best formulae and rules to exploit Arab resources and potential, and to use them for the good of the whole Arab Nation, in an economic unity that removes barriers from the path of inter-Arab trade.

The League of Arab States, is the platform that unites all Arabs. It is called upon to fulfill its mandate of uniting Arab positions and serving their interests, as befits the bonds of true brotherhood that links us. The league is ourselves. It is strong by virtue of the strength, perception, goodwill, and clarity that we invest in it.

This summit is a test of our intentions and our will, which, we have no doubt, should be aware of the mag-

nitude of the challenge before us. Our intentions must be true and sincere, to build confidence, and lay the correct foundations of mutual respect and protection by each brother of his brother, not to say from his own brothers. We must work together, joining our forces and resources, in a major united effort, to restore to this nation its respect, to save the joint Arab efforts, and consolidate them in all fields. This way we shall prove to the world the truth of our words when we state that peace is our strategic choice, and that we stand together to fulfill our obligations towards this end, in order to realise the noble objectives of returning to each his rights, and consolidating security and stability in the region, in the context of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

Brothers,

The preservation of the territorial unity of Iraq, is a duty that we must fulfill diligently. We must work together to alleviate the suffering and agony of the people of Iraq. We must enable that country to resume its rightful place in its Arab environment, within the context

of Arab and international legitimacy. We also declare our full support of the Arab position on the questions concerning the islands of the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. We believe in the need to solve these disputes through negotiations and peaceful means. We also stand with force in support of the security, stability, and independence of Bahrain, as well as the efforts of the elected Algerian leadership to achieve national reconciliation and responsible democracy.

We repeat one more time that provocation, intimidation, and interference in the affairs of others attract dangerous reactions. The policy of employing terrorism in all directions will only create enemies on all fronts. When we emphasise the need to develop relations with others, we equally stress that these relations must be guided by mutual respect, committed to non-interference, characterised by good neighbourliness, and distinguished by nobility of spirit. Our relations must be unselfish, not disperse; protect, not squander; and build, not destroy. Our dialogue must be

conducted with words, not with bullets and explosives. Terrorism is condemned in all its forms. There is no terrorism that is acceptable and another that is unacceptable. There is no terrorism that is legitimate and another that is illegitimate.

Finally, brothers, let us enter this new phase that requires of us awareness and wisdom. Let us work diligently and sincerely, to gain the confidence of one another, and of others, in the context of our concern to achieve solidarity, and to consolidate dialogue. Let us proceed with certainty and flexibility to the state for which we hope, not that which prevails now.

Let us achieve peace among one another, as we seek to achieve it with others. "God, let not our hearts go astray after You have guided us, and grant us of Your mercy, for You are the most merciful."

God, You are peace, from You comes peace, and unto You it shall return. You who are hallowed and revered.

"And the last of their prayers is to thank God, the creator of all people."

May God's peace and blessings be with you.

ment agreed upon by the international community," he said.

Mr. Mubarak described the Arab summit as a "summit of peace and solidarity."

"It is needless to stress that peace to the Arab Nation is an undeniable strategic goal," he said.

"Our peace option is that of one who is capable and confident, and not an option of the oppressed who has no other alternative."

Mr. Mubarak warned: "If any party allows itself to choose what to negotiate and what not, this means that the other parties have the same right which reverts the peace process to the zero point, or rather totally destroys it."

He stressed that Arab countries had never sought to threaten Israel or impose a fait accompli in peace talks.

Mubarak sets tone for Arab approach

(Continued from page 1)

occupied Arab territories, and recognition of Palestinian political rights including the establishment of an independent state.

3. It is unacceptable that any party tries to destroy this legal framework, which has constituted the basis on which peace talks have been carried out since the Madrid conference.

4. No party can choose not to tackle certain subjects. All are committed to negotiate the issues set out by the Madrid conference — namely the status of the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

5. All parties must implement accurately and honestly the agreements already reached, otherwise confidence in the peace process will be shattered.

6. Arab states have avoided resorting to threats and imposing fait accompli, and Israel must do likewise.

7. Security can only be guaranteed by the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace settlement. Security cannot be achieved by occupying land, ignoring other's rights, aiming for regional hegemony or accumulating weapons of mass destruction.

"It is unacceptable for any party to seek, by words or deeds, to destroy this legal framework. It is a framework within which all parties are committed to work," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We invite the new Israeli government to collaborate with us to pursue the peace process without any hesitation and to prove its commitment to a real peace agree-

ment agreed upon by the international community," he said.

Mr. Mubarak described the Arab summit as a "summit of peace and solidarity."

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He stressed that Arab countries had never sought to threaten Israel or impose a fait accompli in peace talks.

Middle East conflict drives youth insane

WASHINGTON (AP) — A defence attorney said his client killed two women and wounded three other people in the head during a 24-hour hijacking. But he asked a jury for acquittal Friday, saying the gunman had been driven insane by Middle East conflict.

Constant violence, blistering political rhetoric and idealism shattered by Arab infighting turned a sensitive Palestinian youth into the man who commandeered Egyptair 648 shortly after takeoff from Athens, Greece, on Nov. 23, 1985, public defender Robert Tucker said.

"He did do it. He was at the end of a period of suicidal despair and incredible depression," Mr. Tucker said during his opening statement in the trial of Omar Mohammed Ali Razaq. "He was just on automatic. He no longer had the mental capability of making a distinction" between right and wrong.

Tucker said Mr. Razaq, who was born in Lebanon and grew up under Israeli occupation in the West Bank, "snapped" because of post traumatic stress syndrome.

Mr. Razaq is being tried in federal court on a single

count of air piracy. A conviction could send him to prison for life.

In all, 11 people died during the incident, including two of the three hijackers. Most passengers were killed when Egyptian commandos stormed the plane and an explosion went off as the aircraft sat on a runway on the island of Malta.

Jackie Pflug of Minneapolis, who was shot in the head at point blank range, will be one of nine eyewitnesses to testify, assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Valder said during his opening statement.

Higher oil prices boost Kuwait economy

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's economy grew strongly in 1995 boosted by higher oil prices and showed a sharp improvement on its 1994 performance, according to official figures.

Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices rose eight per cent in 1995 to 7,952.3 million dinars (\$26,596 million), compared with 7,349.1 million in 1994, according to Central Statistics Office (CSO) figures published by the official news agency KUNA.

This is a sharp improvement on 1994, when the growth rate at current prices was little more than one per cent.

However, the rise does not reflect the real growth in the economy because it does not take into account inflation. The real growth rate for 1995, taking inflation into account, will be lower than eight per cent.

The oil sector's contribution rose by almost 11 per

cent in 1995 to 3,136.8 million dinars (\$10,491 million), compared with 2,829.5 million dinars (\$9,463 million), the CSO, a department of the planning ministry, said. Kuwait produces some two million barrels of oil a day, which is the main source of government revenues. A rise in oil prices in 1995 and the first half of 1996 has given a boost to all oil-dependent economies of the Gulf.

The CSO also released other figures that reflected

the revival in economic activity during 1995.

Consumer spending by the public sector rose five per cent last year to 2,628.4 million dinars (\$8,791 million), compared with 2,503.5 million dinars (\$8,373 million) in 1994.

While consumer spending by the private sector rose 28 per cent in 1995 to 3,892.6 million dinars (\$13,019 million), compared with 3,044.7 million dinars (\$10,183 million) a year earlier.

Asian dragons face more moderate growth — OECD

PARIS (AFP) — The six "Asian dragons" will remain a key source of buoyant growth outside the OECD area this year and next, although they may expand at a somewhat more moderate pace, the OECD has said.

The relative slowdown follows monetary tightening from late 1994 to cope with domestic overheating and inflation pressures, and the impact of currency appreciation against the yen, which hurt their competitive position, it said.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) forecast average growth of 6.4 per cent this year for the dynamic Asian economies (DAEs) — Korea, China, Taipei, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia.

This would be markedly weaker than their 1995 performance of just under eight per cent, although still over three times faster than the 2.1 per cent growth rate projected for the OECD area this year.

And a moderate acceleration of expansion in the DAEs is likely in 1997 as the effects of the recent appreciation wane, the

OECD said in its half-yearly economic outlook.

The report said Korea, Singapore and Chinese Taipei could be worst hit by a deceleration in growth this year.

Korea was likely to face a slowdown from nine per cent last year to just under seven per cent in 1996, which could be seen as a "soft landing" as inflation was coming down, it said.

In Chinese Taipei, growing political uncertainty and tensions with China earlier this year hit confidence and activity, and growth could dip, but recover to 5.5 per cent in 1997.

The "orderly reversal" of the dollar's early 1995 plunge against the yen, combined with an anti-inflation tight money setting, has complicated the exchange-rate management of some DAEs, the OECD said.

Where monetary tightening entailed higher interest rates, this has attracted short-term capital inflows and triggered upward pressure on exchange rates, harming exports, the OECD said.

OECD analysts warned that "a common uncertainty" facing the DAEs over

the near term was therefore "the extent to which there may be further upward pressure on the real exchange rate."

Any "significant" further appreciation would imply that "net exports in the region could be substantially lower in the short term, and the current account deficit... significantly larger," the report said.

Upward pressure might be intensified if interest rate spreads were to widen as a result of lower OECD rates — which might happen if OECD countries made more headway in cutting budget deficits.

An OECD computer simulation showed that an assumed 10 per cent further appreciation of the currencies of Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea and Singapore against a basket of OECD currencies could boost import growth by up to three per cent annually over two years and cut their exports by up to 3.9 per cent.

This could boost the DAEs' current account deficit from \$7.0 billion to \$35 billion by the third year, according to this scenario, indicating that OECD countries, in particular Japan and

the United States, would gain significantly from such a development.

The report said the current slowing of economic activity should help ease recent tightness in DAE labour markets and so contribute to some deceleration in inflation rates, to less than five per cent on average.

The six countries' aggregate trade deficit, which rose sharply last year to nearly \$16 billion, was likely to narrow to just over \$13 billion in 1997, and the current account deficit should come down from \$11 billion to \$8.0 billion.

The DAEs, the OECD said, were likely to see slower export growth this year, but imports were also likely to moderate because of lower domestic demand and a decline in imports of capital investment goods for their export-oriented industries.

However, it said, a recovery in Chinese import and the expected pick-up in the OECD area, including Japan, should partially offset the loss of competitive edge by some of these economies in the wake of the sharp swings in the dollar-yen rate since end-1994.

Time will be the test for the euro, bankers say

SYDNEY (AFP) — The single European currency will come into effect as planned on Jan. 1, 1999, but only time will reveal its durability on the international monetary scene, major bankers have said.

There has been an appreciable change in perceptions surrounding the credibility of the process leading to the birth of the single European currency by the heads of major European and American banks.

It reflects the evolution observed over past months on capital markets as much as the need to be technically ready to use this new monetary instrument when the time comes.

According to participants interviewed by AFP, Federal Reserve bank Chairman Alan Greenspan, participating via satellite link gave a conditional wel-

come to the new currency.

Economically speaking, the euro, as it will be known, has the capacity to become one of the major reserve currencies, on a par with the dollar and yen, explained Mr. Greenspan.

But in practice, it will take several years to show whether the currency will benefit from a stability and credibility equal to or better than the national currencies it is replacing, notably the German mark.

"The euro will be born on the planned date but the question to be answered is whether its creation will endure," said an American banker, who cited the precedent of a brief experience with the return to the gold standard in Britain after World War I. But he said his bank, with a strong presence in Europe, was making technical preparations for

the euro's launch.

"The euro will begin functioning on the first of January 1999, with six or seven countries," the head of a major German bank affirmed. He underlined the political nature of the process and in consequence the acceptance of a degree of flexibility in applying the convergence criteria.

He speculated that "if the United Kingdom satisfies different criteria and decides to enter the process from the beginning, there will be a political decision not to impose on it the rule regarding two years' prior involvement in the exchange mechanism of the European monetary system."

According to the chairman of the board of one of the principal English banking groups, the problem was simple: "We know the deci-

sions were and will be made elsewhere, that's to say in Germany and France. The only question we need to know is whether we will join the process or not."

But even in London technical preparations are under way. As Europe's primary financial centre, the city clearly cannot remain aloof from the pending competition to deal in euro futures operations, in particular the bond market.

"The outstanding question still to be answered is whether there has been a real change in sentiment about the euro or if the oed to be ready for its debut is already influencing people's perceptions," said a top French banker known for his skepticism over both the timetable and methods dictated by the Maastricht treaty.

Rubin says U.S. growth increases capacity for G-7 leadership

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said Thursday the recent performance of the U.S. economy has boosted Washington's capacity to provide leadership on global economic issues.

"Today, in contrast to five years ago, America is back as the international economic power, healthy and strong," Mr. Rubin said in a speech at the National Press Club billed as an outlook on next week's G-7 meeting in Lyon, France.

"We've had a sea-change improvement in our economy, which is not only important in itself, but has dramatically increased our capacity to provide leadership in the world on international economic issues."

The treasury secretary added that "as Americans

economic prospects and security interests are increasingly bound up in the success of the global economy, we must remain vigilant against those forces of isolation, protectionism and retreat that would pull us back from the world."

Mr. Rubin said the G-7 is putting in place the broad elements of the strategy to retool the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that were agreed to at the previous G-7 summit in Halifax, Canada, last year.

He said the IMF has been strengthened to prevent future financial crises and has put in place a set of strong disclosure standards. There is also agreement among the G-7 on proposals to increase the IMF's resources.

In addition, the international regulatory community has agreed on ways to enhance regulatory cooperation, he said. The G-7 is also "working to strengthen banking systems in emerging markets to reduce one potential source of future crises," Mr. Rubin said.

"Together, these changes will make the U.S. economy, and the international financial system, more resistant to crises, and they will help see that the United States does not bear a disproportionate share of the financial responsibility for dealing with crises," Mr. Rubin said.

Mr. Rubin said a strong dollar is "very important to the United States" and that the U.S. "will not use the dollar as an instrument of trade policy."

He said that, over time, currencies reflect fundamentals and that, right now, "our fundamentals are on the right path and in good shape."

Mr. Rubin said the U.S. supports selling a portion of the IMF gold reserves to create a fund to reduce the debt of the world's poorest countries.

EU leaders rebuff Santer jobs pact

FLORENCE, Italy (AFP) — European Union (EU) leaders Saturday rebuffed proposals from the European Commission to switch spare cash in the EU budget into major transport projects as part of a drive to cut the union's 18-million jobless total.

The proposal was the centrepiece of commission president Jacques Santer's proposed "confidence pact for jobs," an initiative designed to promote EU-wide action on unemployment and prevent economic gloom from derailing plans to create a single currency by the end of the century.

An EU summit here agreed

to "take note" of Mr. Santer's proposals and referred them back to finance ministers, effectively killing any chance they will be agreed.

"I'm confident they will be considered with care there," British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke quipped. Britain is one of six EU countries — with Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden — which insist that any cash not

spent by Brussels should be returned to national capitals.

Mr. Santer hit out at the attitude adopted by the member states, warning that the EU's credibility was at stake. "We must give the right signal of our readiness to invest in our future," he said, noting pointedly that it had taken ministers no time at all to agree 1.5 billion European Currency Units of aid to the beef sector.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 23, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find that your ideas conflict with those of higher-ups so try to compromise. Endeavour to get better organized.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Don't try to force your own ideas on others but keep your own counsel. Keep cool and collected and everything will work out fine.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You think you should have more respect from your mate at this time, but say little and soon the situation reverses to the point of before.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't get involved in any altercation at this time between a home tie and an outsider, and it will soon be over for the betterment of those around you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get your career activities well-organized so that it flows smoothly and easily and you avoid confusion. Avoid a discussion with a fellow associate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't disagree with a friend and seek whatever outlets can elevate your spirits. Postpone some decision connected with your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A situation at home could be quite confusing if you permit, but be objective and decide in the days ahead what should be completed.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A secret concern could easily cause you to disturb a bystander, if you permit. Get at the cause and prevent difficulties.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The celestial influence of today could lead you in some wrong direction, so take care. Go over your checking account for its accuracy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Clarify your personal wishes and be tactful in gaining them. Be tactful and all will be well to the benefit of those around you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Schedule your time well so that you can handle both practical affairs and a good time with loved ones. Maintain the peace of your residence.

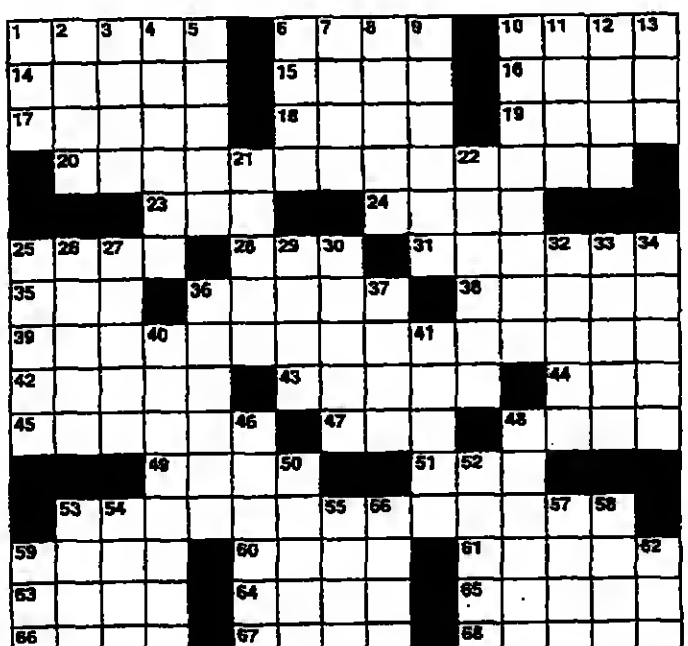
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Hold your temper so that you do not spoil a fine relationship. A kind word can easily save the situation for the betterment of those around.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrines.

THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson

ACROSS

- 1 Piggeries
- 6 Outdo
- 10 Catch sight of
- 14 Opera singer, Marilyn
- 15 Scope
- 16 Mrs. Charles
- 17 Leavening agent
- 18 Building wings
- 19 Mining car
- 20 Hoards
- 23 Cell constituent
- 24 18-wheeler
- 25 Arrived
- 28 Craving
- 31 Ponches
- 35 Work by Keats
- 36 Fake
- 38 Certain alloy
- 39 Being evasive
- 42 Northern road
- 43 Ancient Greek covered walks
- 44 Name in hockey
- 45 Bleachers
- 47 Nevertheless
- 48 Bills
- 49 Green parrots
- 51 Land an — (listen)
- 53 Remembering
- 59 Rely
- 60 Asian land
- 61 Gathering place in old Greece
- 63 Off-Broadway award
- 64 Verbal
- 65 Farm buildings
- 66 Walk in water
- 67 Nerve network
- 68 Marsh bird



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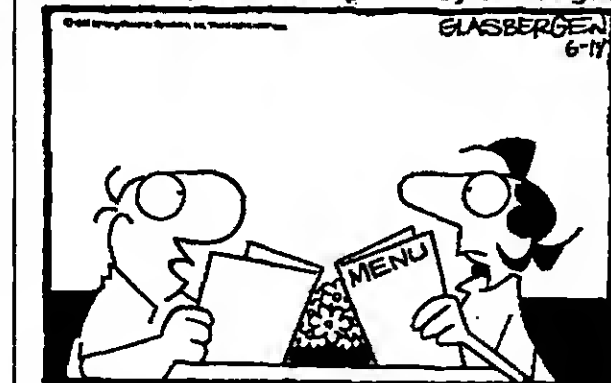
Tuesday's Puzzle solved:

DEJA SUEDE HIGH
AZOV INDEX MORE
FRIENDSHIP STAR
TAN OLES EL PASO
STER GLII
BATHED TALENTED
ACRID STERE ABLE
STEP STEED FOIL
TONO PINT TONAL
ARTFULLY TERESA
STET NONE
SOFTEN LENO ROE
ARIA DEALERSHIP
KENT INNER TELE
ELSE DEANS EASE

DOWN

- 1 Bashful
- 2 — the line (obey)
- 3 Asiatic country
- 4 Guarantee
- 5 Become established
- 6 Boxer Max
- 7 Writer Gardner
- 8 Vends
- 9 Dangling ornament
- 10 Colls
- 11 Shore bird
- 12 Beseech
- 13 Sweet potato
- 21 Smooth fabric
- 22 Italian violins
- 25 Musical endings
- 26 Growrup
- 27 Center of activity
- 29 Omelet base
- 30 Idiotic
- 32 Burning crime
- 33 Accustom
- 34 Prophets
- 36 Notebook cover
- 37 Brogan
- 40 IL river
- 41 Consumed
- 46 Tar
- 48 Source
- 50 Springs
- 52 Gather
- 53 Ali —
- 54 OK town
- 55 Lecher
- 56 — of Capri
- 57 — me tangers
- 58 Fall
- 59 — and arrow
- 62 Enzyme suffix

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Order cheesecake with shrimp cocktail on top instead of cherries. That way you get dessert and appetizer at one price."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Thigh injury slows Torrence, may mar her Olympic dream

ATLANTA (R) — Gwen Torrence's Olympic dream took a painful turn Friday as the 1992 gold medalist's left thigh tightened up in her first 200 metres race at the U.S. Olympic trials.

"My left thigh hurts really bad, but I'm going to gut it out and try to make the team," said Torrence, the Atlanta native who hopes to become the hometown heroine of next month's Olympics by winning three, maybe four gold medals.

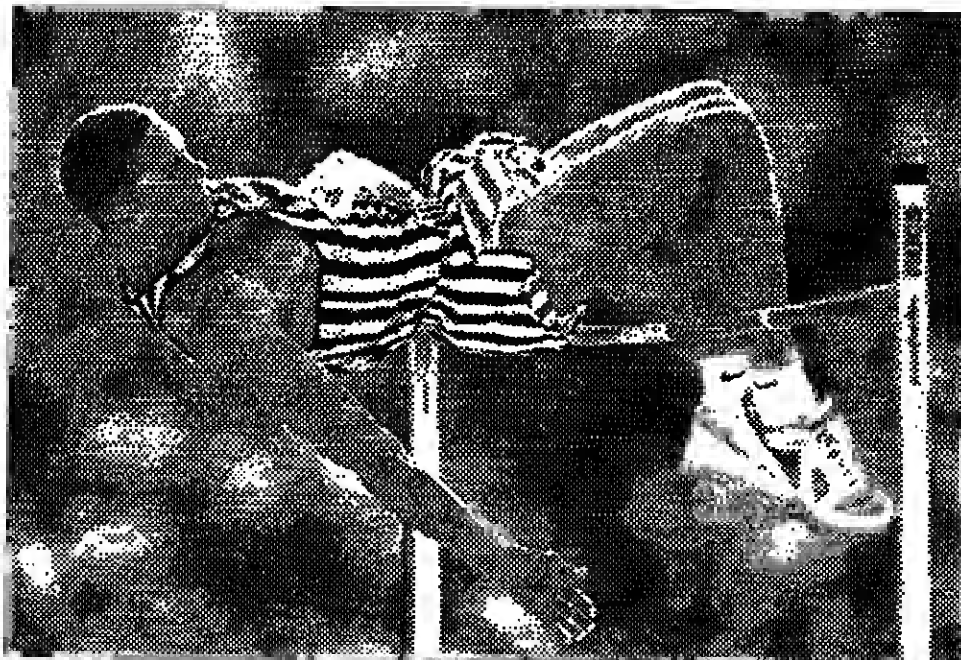
But she stood only 10th among 24 qualifiers for Saturday's double round of the 200 after easing home third in her preliminary race and noticeably favoured the leg during a post-race jog.

Her agent, Brad Hunt, said Torrence, who won the trials' 100 metres in the year's fastest time last weekend, would "be all right."

"Nobody in the field can beat her at 80 per cent," Hunt said.

But Torrence, who was timed in 23.07 seconds, said the thigh really hurt when she raced the curve.

"My thigh tightened in the 100 metres, especially in the last 15 metres," said Torrence, who had ice applied to the leg. "It hurts



Decathlete Dan O'Brien clears 2.05m in the high jump during decathlon competition at the U.S. Olympic trials June 21. O'Brien is the world record holder in the event (Reuters photo)

Zundra Feagin are certain to make her run. Young clocked 22.32 seconds and Zundra Feagin ran 22.35 in their preliminaries for the second and third fastest times in the world this year.

World champion Michael Johnson and eight-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis easily advanced through the first round of the men's 200 metres, and

aggressive," said Johnson, who ran a blazing first 100 metres before easing up over the last 60 metres of the race.

Already the trials' 400-metre champion, Johnson was timed in 20.61 seconds to win his race.

He, too, hopes to earn multiple medals at the games, seeking to become the first male to win the 200

Wednesday made the U.S. team in the long jump and gained an opportunity to win his fourth consecutive Olympic gold medal in the event.

"Michael Johnson is a great sprinter, but I can run with anybody," Lewis said. Jeff Williams had the fastest qualifying time of the opening round, 20.10 seconds, and 1992 Olympic champion Michael Marsh advanced in 20.34.

O'Brien, who bombed out of the 1992 U.S. Olympic trials when he failed to clear a height in the pole vault, trailed Huffins by 69 points in the decathlon.

"Chris has really got to do some good things tomorrow to beat me," said O'Brien, who had 4,618 points to Huffins' 4,687.

Mark Croghan won the men's 3,000-metre steeplechase final in 8:18.80 despite hot, humid conditions, and heptathlon world record-holder Jackie Joyner-Kersey gained a chance to make the U.S. team in a second event.

Joyner-Kersey overcame a cramp in her left leg to advance to Sunday's women's long jump final, leaping 6.94 metres (22 feet, 9 1/4 inches).

"Her body is going through the shocks it needs in order to be ready for the Olympic games," said her husband and coach, Bob Kersee.

World champion Allen Johnson clocked a wind-assisted 13.18 seconds in the men's 110-metre hurdles' opening round, and Lynda Tolbert-Goode paced the women's 100-metre hurdles qualifying with the year's fourth fastest time, 12.78 seconds. World champion Gail Devers was next, winning her preliminary in 12.83 seconds.

Former world champion Mary Slaney crashed out of the women's 1,500 metre, finishing eighth in her semi-final in 4:15.85. The 37-year-old Slaney already had qualified for the games in the women's 5,000 metres.

But 39-year-old Ruth Wysocki will be in Sunday's final. Bumped with a lap to go in the 1,500, Wysocki filed a protest and was reinstated.



Michael Johnson races through a turn, just ahead of Michael Price (left) during their heat in the first round of 200m competition at the U.S. Olympic trials June 21. Johnson won the heat and qualified (Reuters photo)

the worst on the turn."

Even without the injury, Torrence was going to have a workout Saturday with the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the 200 within 90 minutes.

And Dannette Young and

world record-holder Dan O'Brien appeared on course for an 8,700-point decathlon despite trailing Chris Huffins after the first day.

"The most important thing was getting out of the blocks hard and being more

and 400 metres at the same Olympics.

Lewis finished second to little known Ramon Clay in 20.30 seconds in an earlier race, but said he felt strong.

"I'm not going to go down easy," said Lewis, who

Seles cruises to final

EASTBOURNE, England (R) — Monica Seles defied a heavy schedule and a suspect left shoulder to sweep into the final of the Eastbourne grass-court tournament Friday but failed to impress at least one rival.

France's Nathalie Tauziat, beaten 6-4 6-4 by Seles in the semifinals, said afterwards she would be surprised if the joint world number one won Wimbledon, which starts on Monday.

Seles, 22, had earlier beaten Argentine qualifier Ines Gorrochategui 6-3 6-1 in a morning quarter-final after rain washed out play Thursday.

Asked to assess the left-hander's chances at Wimbledon, the 28-year-old Tauziat said Seles was mentally very tough but could struggle against a number of serve-and-volley players.

"I would be surprised if she won. I think I lost the match today. I'm frustrated. I had many opportunities and I didn't finish them," said Tauziat, who four years ago at Wimbledon complained she was put off her game by Seles's infamous grunt.

In the final Seles meets seventh seed Mary Joe Fernandez, who spent over four hours on court in winning her two matches Friday.

The 24-year-old American upset world number two Conchita Martinez 2-6 6-4 6-4 in a two-hour quarter-final and then overcame Jana Novotna 6-1 2-6 6-6 in a thrilling semifinal lasting two hours and 12 minutes.

Novotna double-faulted to give away a vital break for 6-7 in the final set and Fernandez won on her second match point, played in gathering gloom, when the Czech hit a backhand wide.

"It's very encouraging, especially on grass, which isn't my favourite surface," Fernandez said of her marathon day.

Seles, seeded two at this year's Wimbledon on her first visit since she lost to Steffi Graf in the 1992 final, said she felt pretty good after her double-header.

She said her left shoulder injury, diagnosed as tendinitis with a tear in the lining of the socket, had stood up well.

Seles's comeback after she was stabbed in Hamburg in April 1993 has been a stop-start affair because of injuries.

She complained after her opening match here on Wednesday the shoulder was causing her pain and she was short of match fitness.

"I felt I played better in the first match (against Gorrochategui). I was coming into the net more," she said. "But Nathalie is a very good grass-court player."



The Thrust SSC which will attempt to break the sound barrier in Al Jafr this summer

Thrust SSC to break sound barrier in Jordan

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two hundred mph (323.3 kph) in a stock-bodied sports car is enough to brighten the coldest days but doing 850 mph (1370 kph) in a 100,000 hp (75 Mw) with an acceleration from 0-600 mph (0-965 kph) in 16 seconds will undoubtedly break the double century mark.

This beast is called Thrust SSC and it is poised to deliver a hazzai thrill ride every bit as terrifying as the inspirational rush of teacup tower diving and cordless hunge jumping.

What will make it more thrilling is that it is going to attempt to break the sound barrier here in Jordan, this summer.

Even for the most zealous speed-crazy person, a speed of 850 mph is a fantasy. But this is what the team of Thrust SSC hope to achieve in the Jordan desert at Al Jafr some 50 km east of Ma'an.

At a press conference at the Hotel Grand, Hotel Saturday, Andrew Noble, the team's logistician explained the idea behind the attempt by his brother Richard Noble in Thrust SSC to break the Supersonic Land Speed Record and why Al Jafr area was seen suitable for the attempt.

"Jafr was found as a result of the BBC 'Tomorrow's World' programme on the desert search of a track of 7.5 miles with exceptional hardness and consistency equal to that of Black Rock where a final attempt to register the world record will be held later in the year."

Noble said that the preliminary attempt in Jafr with assistance by the Royal Jordanian Air Force

The Supersonic Race started in 1990 when my brother Richard, current holder of the world's land speed record at 633.468 mph, was challenged by Craig Breedlove, the builder of the Spirit of America which was capable of 700 mph and then Mach 1.

"Richard decided to go ahead with the project after two intensely frustrating years lacking funds and came up with the Thrust SSC project which will be finally tested here in Al Jafr," he added.

The challenge will reach its highest crest this autumn when the two cars compete on the Black Rock Desert in the United States.

Breedlove will use Edwards Air Force Base with the 5 mile desert surface Shuttle runway in his practice runs while the Thrust SSC, driven by Andy Green, will have the chance to experience the 7.5 mile track

which will be extended 10.2 miles in Al Jafr desert. The Thrust SSC construction is very similar to building an early Supersonic prototype fighter. The carbon and aluminium body panels will produce extremely stiff structure which will preserve its aerodynamic shape while experiencing the high stresses of Supersonic flight just 250 millimetres off the ground.

Thrust has 100,000 hp that's the equivalent of 141 Formula One Cars. It is provided by two Spey engines jet fighter which will provide enough thrust to accelerate the 7 tonne, 54 foot long monster to Supersonic speed in about 23 seconds.

The Thrust SSC high speed trials at Jafr will start around July 15 and to be completed the first week of August.

The advance party leaves on June 20 and will return after the completion of engine tests and slow speed runs at Farnborough, England with 25 man and 10 vehicle team around July 14th.

Noble thanked His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein for his support and encouragement. The press conference was attended by the British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchliffe.

Jordan finishes last in Group 1 of Asian Youth Soccer Championship

By Walid Ghazaleh in Manama and Ajeen Bannayan in Amman

THE KINGDOM'S national under-16 soccer team return to Amman today after taking part in the qualifying round of the Asian Youth Soccer Championship which was held in Manama, Bahrain.

Jordan finished last in Group 1 which included Bahrain and Turkmenistan.

Hosts Bahrain qualified to the final round which will be held in Thailand Sept. 14-28.

Jordan lost 1-0 to Turkmenistan and needed a big victory over Bahrain

to qualify as the hosts had crushed the Turkmen team 6-1. However Jordan lost the final match 1-0 to Bahrain from a penalty kick in extra time.

Jordan's coach Adnan Masoud said although the team's results were not encouraging, the players gave it all they had in the match against Bahrain which the host team only won after the referee awarded them a controversial penalty kick.

The coach explained that Jordan's last-place finish could be attributed to a host of reasons including not playing in weather conditions similar to those

in Bahrain in addition to the fact that the team did not have any serious friendly matches or a training camp prior to competition.

The coach also noted that players were competing in what was probably their first major championship abroad.

The Asian Youth Championship includes 30 Asian teams divided into nine groups. Japan are the titleholders of the last championship held in Doha in 1994.

MONTREAL (R) — Shane Andrews singled in F.P. Santangelo with two outs in the bottom of the 12th to give the Montreal Expos a 4-3 win over the St. Louis Cardinals Friday on a night of marathon match-ups in the National League.

Santangelo singled with two outs off relief ace Dennis Eckersley (0-5), stole second and scored when Andrews lined a single to left field, giving Montreal its eighth win in

10 games and its fourth in the last five.

In Atlanta, rookie Jermaine Dye doubled in the winning run in the bottom of the 11th to give the Braves their fourth straight win, an 8-7 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Jeff Blauser walked with one out in the 11th and Javy Lopez hit a slow chopper to the left of the pitcher's mound that shortstop Shawon Dunston and third baseman Matt Williams

Expos edge Cards on National League marathon day

allowed to die for a single. Dye followed with a long double to the right-centre field gap off relief ace Rod Beck.

"I've been in there every day for five days now. All I'm trying to do now is put it in the organisation's mind that I'm ready to play," said Dye.

The Giants erased a 7-3 deficit by scoring three

times in the fifth and once in the sixth.

In San Diego, Jody Reed's single with one out in the bottom of the 10th scored Tony Gwynn as the San Diego Padres stopped a five-game losing streak with a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

In Philadelphia, David Doster hit his first Major League home run with two

outs in the bottom of the 10th to lift the Philadelphia Phillies to a 4-3 win over the Colorado Rockies.

In New York, Todd Hundley hit a pair of two-run homers and Bernard Gilkey added a homer and two RBI to lead the New York Mets to a 9-4 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

At Florida, Kevin Brown threw a five-hitter for his

second shutout this season and Devon White hit a two-run homer as the Florida Marlins blanked the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-0 to snap a three-game losing streak.

Brown (6-5) struck out seven and did not walk a batter. The right-hander did not allow a hit until rookie Jason Kendall led off the sixth with an infield single

as he lowered his Major League leading era to 1.88. Spanning his last five starts, the sinkerballing Brown has permitted just 15 of 104 outs to leave the infield.

In Los Angeles, Doug Drabek allowed a pair of runs over eight innings and Derek Bell and Orlando Miller had two-run singles in a four-run first inning as the Houston Astros cruised to an 11-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Drabek (3-5) allowed one earned run and nine hits with two walks and six strikeouts in his first win in five starts since May 25.

Loser Tom Candiotti (5-6) was tagged for six runs and nine hits with two walks in 2 1/3 innings.

Despite the loss, the Dodgers maintained a one-game lead over the other three teams in the National League West.

<p>TODAY AT</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>John Travolta and Gene Hackman in Get Shorty</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA</p> <p>Gerard Depardieu in My Father the Hero</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>* CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Jodi Foster in Neil</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>Batman Forever</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Imperial Theatre & Cinema</p> <p>Will shortly present Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in a play entitled Five-Star Government</p> <p>Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat</p>	<p>Noble & Hisham's Theatre</p> <p>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</p> <p>Arab Human Rights</p> <p>at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call 625155 - 640155</p>
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Sports

Bailey beats Surin to win Canadian Olympic trials

MONTREAL (R) — In their first outdoor encounter in nine months, world champion Donovan Bailey beat world silver medalist Bruny Surin Friday to win the 100-metre dash at the Canadian Olympic trials.

Bailey overtook the field at the 60-metre mark and won with a time of 9.98 seconds. Surin was second in 10.04 and Glenroy Gilbert, Bailey's training partner in Texas, was third in 10.18.

Bailey, Surin and Gilbert — members of Canada's gold-medal 4x100-metre relay team at the 1995 World Championships — earned the right to run the 100 metres at the Olympics next month. And all three were selected for doping controls after the race in what Canadian drug testers insisted was a random draw.

Asked about the three U.S. sprinters they will face at the Olympics — Dennis Mitchell, Mike Marsh and Jon Drummond — Bailey said: "I don't really care about them. It's just a formality. I don't think any of us are really worried about who qualified. It doesn't really matter."

The Germans' defence

Germany confident despite setbacks

MANCHESTER (R) — Germany captain Juergen Klinsmann says his team are going into Sunday's Euro 96 quarter-final against Croatia with confidence despite setbacks to key players and a mauling by Italy in their last match.

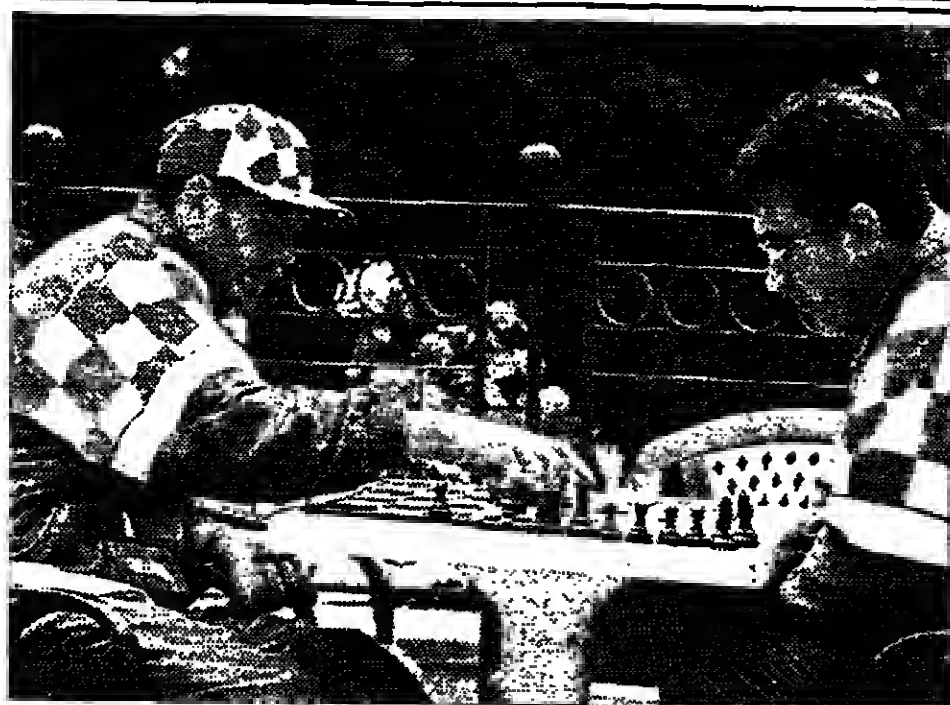
Although they won Group C, the Germans were outplayed by the Italians in a bruising goalless draw in their last first round game. Defender Thomas Helmer was left limping badly with a swollen knee.

But Klinsmann said the tournament favourites had been helped rather than hindered by one of their hardest games for years. Berti Vogts's side played most of the second half with 10 men after Thomas Strunz was sent off.

"There is good spirit in the camp. The first half against Italy was not perfect. But the way we got the result despite being down to 10 men says a lot about our character," the Bayern Munich striker said.

"They are a very strong team and we respect them. But now the competition really starts. It's knockout and we can hardly wait. We have no problems with our confidence. We are always there when everything's at stake. We are good at concentrating."

The Germans' defence



Croatian superstar Zvonimir Boban (left) plays chess with team coach assistant Ivanovic Branko (right) during a day off at the Croatian team headquarter in Oakham, Croatia will play in a quarter final match against Germany at Old Trafford in Manchester June 23 (Reuters photo)

has already been weakened by Juergen Kohler's departure from the tournament with torn knee ligaments.

Helmer, one of Germany's best players against Italy, has been unable to walk properly in the last few days and faces a battle to get fit in time for old Trafford.

If he is unable to play, Borussia Dortmund's Stefan Freund is expected to be the second man-to-man marker at the back, joining Markus Babbel who returns after being suspended against Italy.

Vogts is not a manager who likes to make sweeping changes to his team. Stefan Reuter is expected to

return as wing-back on the right side after missing the Italian clash because of a thigh injury.

The most interesting selection decision revolves around the right side of midfield where there are rumours that the German coach may decide to drop the experienced Thomas Haessler, the country's hero of the 1992 European Championship.

Haessler, whose free-kicks saved the Germans several times in Sweden, has struggled with his form in recent games and Vogts may bring in Bayern Munich's Mehmet Scholl, regarded as one of the Bundesliga's most promising

players.

More than a handful of the German squad go into the game with one yellow card. But Klinsmann said it would not stop the Germans putting the Croats under pressure. They would not be shirking any tackles.

"It's always 50-50 in games like this. It depends on the form on the day. We have a well balanced squad and other players can always come in as replacements," he said. "We certainly won't be going into the match with the hand-brake on."

Croatia, regarded by Vogts as a "secret favourite" for the title, fielded a virtual second XI in their final group match against Portugal and have only one injury problem.

EURO 96

Seaman penalty shoot-out save puts England through

LONDON (R) — Goalkeeper David Seaman dived to his left to push out Miguel Angel Nadal's spot-kick and give England victory over Spain in their Euro 96 quarter-final after a penalty shoot-out on Saturday.

England won 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw after extra time. They will meet the winners of Sunday's Germany-Croatia quarter-final.

Alan Shearer, David Platt, Stuart Pearce and Paul Gascoigne all converted their penalties for England, while Fernando Hierro struck the bar with the first Spanish kick.

Even the new "golden goal" rule — the first side to score in extra time wins — failed to break the stalemate.

England had two gilt-edged chances to settle the match in open play, the first falling to Shearer in the 73rd minute.

Gascoigne, coming into the box from the left, sent the ball sailing towards the far post where Shearer, just ahead of goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, blasted it over the bar from less than three metres.

In the 10th minute of extra time Gascoigne was put clean through on the right but his strong, dipping shot was saved by the diving Zubizarreta.

Spain's substitute striker Alfonso Perez was twice

denied in the dying minutes, the first time by a sharp tackle by Pearce.

After being fortunate to repel an England onslaught in the opening minutes, Spain gave as good as they got despite a typically defensive clemente approach.

The Spanish, who scored crucial goals in the last six minutes of two of their three group matches, threatened a repeat in the dying minutes of normal time.

In the 85th minute Gareth Southgate made a brilliant tackle on Kiko Narvaez on the edge of the six-yard box when the Atletico Madrid forward had only Seaman to beat.

A minute later Hierro sent a 30-metre free kick just over the Arsenal goalkeeper's bar.

Then, with two minutes to go, Seaman dived to his left to stop a shot from Kiko with defender Abelardo Fernandez following up looking for a rebound.

The England goalkeeper also came out to block another shot from Kiko in the 90th minute after he had been put through by Atletico Madrid teammate Camnerio, one of two half-time substitutions.

Abelardo won the quickest booking of the tournament so far when he was shown the yellow card after 19 seconds for a tackle from behind on Shearer out

wide on the left.

Fortunately, it turned out not to be a prelude to feared rough treatment of the England forwards. Spain instead settling to their game after the early scares.

In the next three minutes 110-cap World Cup veteran Zubizarreta was called on to make two diving saves to prevent Spain from falling behind.

The first was from right back Gary Neville and the second from the dangerous Shearer.

Zubizarreta also tipped over a Tony Adams header from a free kick on the left by Gascoigne.

England coach Terry Venables said: "It was a tough game and we showed real spirit and guts. When we played Holland it was a football match, whereas today it was all courage and I thought the boys worked themselves into the ground. When it got to penalties I thought they did their job well and that's what it's all about."

Venables had special praise for left-back Stuart Pearce, who missed his spot kick in the semi-final shoot-out against Germany in the 1990 World Cup.

"He was magnificent. He had no doubt he wanted to take a penalty. I had thought I didn't want to put him through that experience again, but it was his decision. He wanted it."

Skilful Portuguese favourites to topple Czechs

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Portugal's gifted young team are expected to cruise past the Czech Republic in Sunday's Euro 96 quarter-final at Villa Park.

Failure to reach the last four of a major tournament for only the third time would be regarded by the Portuguese as a shock second only to Italy's defeat by their opponents.

Although the sending-off of Italian defender Luigi Apolloni made precise assessment of the Czechs' achievement difficult, the group match did illustrate

their twin strengths of solid planning and smart finishing.

The Italian offside trap was cleverly sprung by Karel Poborsky's crosses from the right and well-timed runs from midfield to meet them.

A dramatic 3-3 draw against Russia offered further evidence of Poborsky's deftness and Patrik Berger's fierce shooting, but it also confirmed that the Czech defence may not last much longer at this rarefied level.

Russia, like Germany

before them, breached the Czech defence twice in six minutes, leaving them with the second-worst defensive record of the 16 competing nations.

"The first 15 minutes of the second half in that game taught us a lesson," said Czech coach Dusan Uhrin. "We have spoken to the players about improving defence."

He believes that the return of his captain and sweeper, Kaiserslautern's Miroslav Kadelec, will tighten things up, but may still decide to push extra defender Lubos

Kubik into midfield as the replacement for Pavel Nedved, who is suspended.

Portugal expect to be at full strength, with defender Paulinho Santos unable to win back his place after suspension from Porto club mate Carlos Seca.

Critics have suggested that they lack a powerful striker to finish off their attractive approach play, but scoring three times against a weakened Croatia in their final group match has increased the team's confidence.

"If we score five in three games, that answers the criticism," said Juventus midfielder Paulo Sousa.

France oust Holland to reach semis

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — France sent Holland crashing out of Euro 96 when they won their quarter-final 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out after both sides failed to score after 120 minutes of football Saturday.

Ironically it was Clarence Seedorf, who had been at the center of the internal squabbling that had wrecked Holland throughout the championship, who missed his penalty to allow the French to take their unbeaten record to 21 matches.

But it was a match that never managed to live up to its pre-match billing. Both France and Holland squandered to find any sense of rhythm, with both sides getting themselves bogged down in midfield. Holland started their 19-year-old sensation Patrick Kluivert but it took him nearly 20 minutes before he was able to show why he is so highly rated.

Even when players did do something right, they were against them. Holland should have snatched victory five minutes from time when Marcel Desailly handled the ball just inside the area. But Spanish referee Antonio Nieto, who seemed to be struggling like the players, gave the foul just outside the area.

Holland, still smarting of their 4-1 drubbing by England a week ago, could have taken the lead in the opening 45 minutes when a corner by Richard Witschge went to an unmarked Ronald De Boer with the goal at his mercy but the midfielder headed wide.

France, who have gone 26 internationals without defeat, had difficulty getting into a scoring position.

France, who have gone 26 internationals without defeat, had difficulty getting into a scoring position.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH

A DEVILISH GUESS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 10 4	♠ A Q 10	♠ A 7 5 4 3	♠ A K 2
♥ 9 8 2	♥ 9 8 2	♥ 9 8 2	♥ 9 8 2
♦ 9 8 7 6 5	♦ 9 8 7 6 5	♦ 9 8 7 6 5	♦ 9 8 7 6 5
♣ 9 8 7 6 5	♣ 9 8 7 6 5	♣ 9 8 7 6 5	♣ 9 8 7 6 5

The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass 3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣

When there is a choice of two holdings that partner might have which would enable you to defeat the contract, play for the weaker of the two to exist. Consider this deal. South's hand barely qualified for a free rabbit. However, the sixth speed and singleton heart fully justified that action and, when North raised to complete an invitational sequence, South decided that the secondary club fit merited acceptance.

It is common practice today to lead low from three cards in partner's suit, unless you have raised, hence West's lead. The problem with a top-of-nothing lead is that it is impossible for the player in third seat to determine on the second round how many cards in the suit the opening leader holds, which could lead to an "accident." Declarer rose with the ace of hearts, drew trumps in three rounds, then ran the queen of clubs to East's king. The hand was at the crossroads.

It was obvious to East that the declarer needed three tricks from the diamond suit to defeat the contract. On the surface it seemed that West had to hold the queen of diamonds for the defense to succeed. However, East realized that there was a chance if West held the jack of diamonds and declared the ♠ 10. At trick six East shifted to the deuce of diamonds. Declarer thought for a while but eventually made the play we, too, would have chosen — South finessed the nine of diamonds! West was delighted to win the jack and two more diamond tricks completed declarer's discomfort. Down one.

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Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday		Departure Amman		11.10 p.m.	
Arrival Tel Aviv		11.59 p.m.			

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